

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
August 28, 2023**

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

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 Hamilton, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira,

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Chief Dimitriadis, Police Chief
Deputy Chief Carl Pavlik, Deputy Chief, Fire Department

Mayor Bernstein began by declaring the Month of September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and directed those present to review the Proclamation in its entirety affixed to the agenda.

Mayor Bernstein then announced the following appointments to the Planning Board and welcomed them aboard thanking them for their service.

Jodi Brenner, Regular Class IV Member
Filling unexpired term ending 12/31/25

Youngsam Yu, Regular Class IV Member
Filling unexpired term ending 12/31/24

Lynn Paulison, Class IV Alternate #2
Filling unexpired term ending 12/31/23

Ordinances – Introduction (none)

Ordinances – Adoption - Public Hearing

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 was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Marks to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1123-23

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

Speaker(s):

Ray Cywinski
256 County Rd.

Mr. Cywinski asked for clarification on what would be covered under this bond ordinance.

Council President Andrea Slowikowski explained that it was for an updated sign, ambulance equipment, a fire truck and two police cars all included in the 2023 Capital Budget.

There being no other public comment, a motion to close the Public Hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Marks.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

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 was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Marks to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1125-23

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

Speaker(s):

Karen Brodsky
79 Stewart St.

Ms. Brodsky asked for clarification and commented that the ordinance's language was difficult to read.

Mayor Bernstein stated that this ordinance was simply to revise language in a previous bond ordinance to broaden the uses of the funds.

Ray Cywinski
256 County Rd.

Mr. Cywinski asked for about the other items in the ordinance.

Mayor Bernstein explained that nothing else in the old ordinance was changing although decisions about whether or not to spend the other monies and on which projects have not been made and other changes are possible.

There being no other public comment, a motion to close the Public Hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Marks.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 117-23 Authorizing Tax Refund
Resolution No. 118-23 Escrow Release
Resolution No. 119-23 Bills List

A motion was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Marks to approve the consent agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events

Councilmember Jiang reported that the middle school was making a technology change from Apple to Google Chrome. Additionally, the schools would be utilizing college students as student teachers to assist in the classrooms.

Ambulance and Recreation

Councilmember LaPira was absent from the meeting, therefore no report was provided.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee

Councilmember Marks reported that DAA has complemented the work of the DPW on the Borough fields. He further stated that now that the budget and bond ordinances have been approved, the new electronic sign should be installed soon, and the website update should be completed by the end of the year.

Finance & Insurance Committee

Council President Slowikowski reported that finance in continuing their work getting the approved budget loaded in the Munidex software and looking forward to the upgraded Edmonds software that should make these tasks faster being implemented by the end of the year.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee

Councilmember Hamilton reported that she too has received compliments of the DPW's work on the fields in 2023. She further stated that residents in need of shredding can visit the County shredding event in Mahwah with 4 boxes under 10 lbs. on October 1.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee

Councilmember Fox was absent therefore there was no report.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator

Ms. Falkenstern reported that the 9/11 ceremony would be held on Monday 9/11 at 6 pm by the memorial. Additionally, the Borough has identified an individual with the correct experience to serve as Payroll Specialist in the finance office and a resolution will be on the next agenda for the appointment.

Borough Attorney

No report.

Borough Treasurer

The Borough Treasurer was not present.

Police Chief

Chief Dimitriadis reported the following:

On August 24th at 4:27 am Demarest units were dispatched to 39 Timberline Drive on a report of a burglary in progress. Ptl. Cameron and Anavim responded to the scene to assist. Alpine PD had two male parties under arrest but advised there was possibly a female party wearing a blue sweatshirt still at large. While watching the two suspect vehicles, a female party came down the driveway of the neighbor's house, 35 Timberline Drive, to the front gate. Demarest officer concluded this female party was the same party that was at large. At that time, Officer Anavim jumped over the fence to apprehend her and transport her to Alpine PD for processing.

The Dept. is currently conducting background checks for new certified police officers. Thankfully, we have received a very qualified candidate pool and I recommend we hire 2 immediately and third in 2024 to get back to a total of 17 we had this time last year. Currently at 13, not counting myself and an officer on administrative leave.

- FBI recommends 3.5 officer per 1,000 residents per Uniform Crime Reports
 - Approx. 5,000 residents is 17.5
 - Our population doubles in the day with students & staff at NVRHS, AHA, and three grade schools

The Demarest Police Department logged a total of 547 calls for service and Administrative activities from last council meeting 07/24/23 to 08/27/23
Some of these calls for service include:

Domestic Violence – 2 incidents of
Arrest – 2; one for Harassment & Stalking, other for DWI
Theft – 1
Fraud – 1
MV Crashes – 7
Medical Calls for service – 11

Fire Chief

Deputy Chief Carl Pavlik reported that the department has had 28 calls month to date and is waiting to hear the status of their AFG Grant. They are also preparing for Demarest Day on 9/23

Ambulance

No report

Minutes for approval:

August 14, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang

Nays: None

Abstention: Councilmember Hamilton

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira

Councilmember Marks made a motion to open the meeting to the public that was seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved by all.

Public Comment:

Ray Cywinski
256 County Rd.

Mr. Cywinski asked if there was any plan for maintenance of the Duck Pond and removal of ash trees around the pond.

Mayor Bernstein stated that there is a list of trees for removal, and we are awaiting information from our engineers on other maintenance issues.

Mr. Cywinski believes there is a maintenance plan done years ago that the Borough should attempt to locate.

Karen Brodsky
79 Stewart St.

Ms. Brodsky thanked the Borough for the paving of her road and thanked the Police for their work and support during the paving project.

Closed Session:

A motion was made at 8:18 pm by Councilmember Hamilton, seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved by all to adjourn into closed session. It was noted that action may be taken by the Council when the meeting is reopened in public session.

The meeting was reopened to the public and motion was made by Councilmember Jiang and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve Resolution 120-23 to direct the Borough Attorney to draft a contract of agreement of sale with the owners of 563 Piermont Rd.

There being no more business before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern, in the absence of the Borough Clerk