

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
Municipal Building
Demarest, NJ
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2023**

This regular meeting was called to order at 7:33 at the above time and place.

Mayor Bernstein invited all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: Councilmember Fox (arrived 8:02 pm after recess)

Also Present: Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Anthony Dimitriadis, Police Chief
John McLoughlin, Fire Chief
Jason Gangi, Public Works Manager

Mayor Bernstein read the compliance statement as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231

Councilmember Hamilton offered a motion to Suspend the Regular Order of Business for police promotion and the swearing in of two new Police Officers. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

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

**Resolution No. 144-23 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
PROMOTING MICHAEL BARTELUCCI TO THE POSITION OF LIEUTENANT OF THE
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

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

Mayor Bernstein invited Chief Dimitriadis, Commissioner Jiang and Michael Bartelucci and his family to come forward to swear in Lt. Bartelucci. Mayor Bernstein administered the oath of office. An officer from the Alpine Police Department came forward to congratulate Lt. Bartelucci and commented that he was an explorer in Demarest as a young man and credits Lt. Bartelucci with assisting him with his career in Law Enforcement. Mayor Bernstein then stated that he was on the Council when Lt. Bartelucci was hired years ago and was proud to swear him in.

Resolution No. 145-23 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST APPROVING THE HIRE OF FERNANDO SAINT-HILAIRE AS A POLICE OFFICER WITH THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Jiang

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Mayor Bernstein invited Chief Dimitriadis, Commissioner Jiang and Fernando Saint-Hilaire and his family to come forward to swear in PO Saint-Hilaire. Mayor Bernstein administered the oath of office.

Resolution No. 146-23 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST APPROVING THE HIRE OF FREDI NOLASCO AS A POLICE OFFICER WITH THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Jiang and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Mayor Bernstein invited Chief Dimitriadis, Commissioner Jiang and Fredi Nolasco and his family to come forward to swear in PO Saint-Hilaire. Mayor Bernstein administered the oath of office

Councilmember Marks made a motion for a brief recess. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hamilton and approved by all.

The Council returned to the meeting at 8:02 pm after a brief recess. Councilmember Fox then joined the meeting.

Mayor Bernstein announced the following appointment to the Recreation Commission:

Brandis Buzkin Filling unexpired term ending 12/31/23

Councilmember LaPira expressed her appreciation for Brandis' contributions already and is certain she will be an asset to the committee for years to come.

Ordinance (Introduction):

Ordinance No. 1128-2023

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 122 OF THE DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE (NOISE)

Mayor Bernstein opened the floor to the public before asking for a motion to introduce the ordinance.

Lynn Paulison asked for clarification abouts times affected and asked that noise not be permitted past 11 pm. She was told the ordinance allows noise from 8 am – 11 pm and prohibits noise on holidays.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1128-23 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on December 18, 2023.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Ordinance No. 1129-2023

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND MODIFYING PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE LEGISLATION, CHAPTER 40, §40-5 DEPARTMENT POSITIONS OF THE DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE

Mayor Bernstein opened the floor to the public before asking for a motion to introduce the ordinance

Noel Pugh
64 Prospect

Noel expressed his confusion about earlier ordinance 1128-23 with respect to working on Sundays. The council will review final language for clarification before adoption.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1129-23 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on December 18, 2023.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Ordinance Public Hearing (Adoption):

Ordinance No. 1127-2023

AMENDING CHAPTER 163-TREES

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1127-23

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

Nays: None

Absent:

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, Councilmember Fox made 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. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hamilton.

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Work Session Discussion Items:

Film Permit Appeal 287 County Rd.

Resolution No. 151-23 Confirming or Overturning Acting Clerk's Denial of Film Permit

Mr. Thomas O'Connor explained that he was seeking a film permit for his home on a Saturday, which is prohibited by ordinance. He described the project and that he did not anticipate any impact on the neighborhood as he has had permits for similar activities in the past without incident.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to reverse the denial issues by the Clerk and grant the permit.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Consent Agenda

Before asking for a motion to approve, Mayor Bernstein discussed resolution 150-23 thanking the Borland family for their donation. He believes it is a fitting tribute to their late daughter and a great addition to the Borough's holiday display.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 147-23 Approving purchase of Capital Purchase DPW Vehicle

Resolution No. 148-23 Approving release of Escrow

Resolution No. 150-23 Accepting Donation of Christmas Tree

Resolution No. 152-23 Bills List Dated 11/22/23

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

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

Nays: None

Absent:

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski, seconded by Councilmember LaPira and approved by all to open the meeting to the public.

Mike Clark 150 Donnybrook

Mr. Clark asked for information about a grant for the gazebo as he feels it is in need of repair. The BA explained that the grant was for a complete overhaul and hoped it would be received. If not, they will apply again, but in any event the Borough will plan a refurbishment. Mayor Bernstein commented that he has spoken to the Woods family since the gazebo is named after their late mother. He will keep the family involved in upcoming plans. Mr. Clark also asked for an update on the new sign and asked for improved communication. Councilmember Marks, BA Falkenstern and Mayor Bernstein all expressed their frustration with the delayed sign and hope it will be installed before the new year.

Dick Schooler

Mr. Schooler asked how much the grant application was for and BA Falkenstern said approximately \$450K.

Noel Pugh
64 Prospect

Mr. Pugh expressed his concern about continued drainage issues in his neighborhood and asked about the tree ordinance. Borough Attorney Rosendahl explained that drainage is reviewed during the construction permit process. Councilmember Fox explained that the tree ordinance is restrictive.

There being no other members of the public wishing to speak, the meeting was closed.

Closed Session Resolution 2023-014

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to adjourn to closed session to discuss litigation and personnel.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

It was noted that no formal action will be taken when the Council returns to open session.

The Council returned to open session at 9:17

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Falkenstern
In the absence of the Borough Clerk