

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 10, 2025
7:30 PM**

Mayor Bernstein read the following compliance statement:

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this meeting in the annual schedule of meetings of this Governing Body. Such schedule of meetings is posted at Borough Hall, on the Borough website and was published in the Record and Star Ledger and was filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Bernstein invited the students in the audience to lead those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Nick Chelius, Borough Engineer
Peter Suh, CFO

Work Session Discussion Items:

Engineer's Report

Nick Chelius highlighted the upcoming paving projects including a bid opening scheduled for 2/11 for Stewart and Stelfox and a bid opening for the unimproved roads scheduled for late in February. He noted that Riverside cooperative paving for 2025 will include Pine Terrace (work following the drainage project from 2024 on improved side), ADA ramp improvements on Anderson and Northwood Ave. He also reported that only the solid waste department of DEP owed comments on the CAP and he anticipated minor comments to be forthcoming.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 044-25	Release of Escrow
Resolution No. 045-25	Soil Moving Permit - 97 Prospect Ave.
Resolution No. 046-25	Soil Moving Permit – 54 Everett Rd.
Resolution No. 047-25	Release of Performance Bond
Resolution No. 048-25	Payment of Bills

Resolution No. 049-25 Setting 2025 Salary of Police Chief
Resolution No. 050-25 Authorizing Construction Administration FY2024 NJDOT
Resolution No. 051-25 Authorizing Construction Administration 2024 Unimproved
Roads Project

There being no member of the Council wishing to move any resolutions to a separate vote or asking to abstain from any items on the consent agenda, Mayor Bernstein detailed Resolutions 044-25-051-25.

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

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Approval of Minutes:

January 6, 2025 Reorganization Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Reorganization Meeting.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Before asking for a motion to open to the public, Mayor Bernstein noted that he had a meeting shortly before the Council meeting with leadership of the Shade Tree Commission where they presented ideas for beautification of the cemetery on Everett. He asked Ms. Falkenstern provide copies of the presentation to the entire council for their review for discussion at the next meeting.

Mayor Bernstein then asked if anyone from Academy Road was present in the audience since it had come to the attention of several members of the governing body that some residents of Academy Lane would like to propose parking restrictions. There being no residents present, the Mayor proposed that the Ordinance Committee do some research and prepare to make recommendations based on the request. He noted that Councilmember Jiang had earlier expressed a conflict as he is a resident of Academy Lane so he would sit in with the committee in his place on this issue.

Ms. Falkenstern noted that there was some study done last year when the complaints in regard to parking were raised and she would share that information with the committee.

Mayor Bernstein noted that he would like the committee to first complete their report and recommendations related to the proposed Joint Land Use Board so that issue can be addressed before the committee's focus turns elsewhere.

Mayor Bernstein then asked Councilmember Reiss if the committee could commit to providing the report and recommendations on the Land Use Board by Tuesday 2/18 so the Council could review properly and discuss at the 2/24 meeting. Councilmember Reiss stated that the request was reasonable, and he would speak to Councilmember Fox who is drafting the report, but did not anticipate an issue with completion by the middle of next week.

Meeting Open to the Public

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Collins to open the meeting to the public.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Dianne Conti

Ms. Conti asked if the council would consider adding pickleball courts somewhere in town as the surrounding towns that have courts prioritize their own residents and it is therefore difficult for Demarest residents to find a place to play.

Ms. Falkenstern noted that she has been speaking to the engineer about a proposal to add pickleball to the tennis courts while they are looking to get the tennis courts refurbished.

It was noted that Ms. Mary Ann Rich, who has been generously supporting the courts, would need to approve of any such plan.

Mayor Bernstein noted that unfortunately there is no other location for pickleball courts in town.

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

There being no additional business before the Council a motion was made by Council President Slowikowski, seconded by Councilmember Jiang to adjourn. The motion was approved by all, and the meeting was therefore adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern
Acting Borough Clerk

