

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
WORK SESSION Minutes
December 8, 2025
7:30 PM**

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 all in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox (*by phone*), Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Absent:

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga, Affordable Housing Attorney
Nick Chelius, Borough Engineer

Mayor Bernstein opened the meeting by noting that a resolution No. 219-25 was being added to the agenda at the request of the Bergen County United Way. The Resolution was forwarded to the Council late this afternoon and is available for their review on the dais. The BCUW is making application to Bergen County Home Funding that requires a supporting resolution, and the application date is before our next meeting, so the resolution is added to the agenda.

Council President Slowikowski made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Ordinances (Introduction):

ORDINANCE NO. 1172-25 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1148-24 OF THE BOROUGH FINALLY ADOPTED AUGUST 26, 2024, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST AND APPROPRIATING \$3,496,403 THEREFOR, AND

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,982,761 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE SAME

Councilmember Collins a motion to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No.1172-25 and it be published as required by law with notice of Public Hearing to be held on December 29, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

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

Resolution 211-25 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 - POLICE SALARIES AND WAGES

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Reiss.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Resolution 212-25 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SALARIES AND WAGES

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Resolution 213-25 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 - LEGAL SERVICES - OTHER EXPENSES

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Resolution 214-25 REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION – OTHER EXPENSES

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Work Session Discussion Items:

Engineer's Report

Nick Chelius reviewed the monthly Engineer's Report. He noted that the subdivision plan for the Westwood property is ready for review by Green Acres. He reported that the Borough received a grant award of \$107,967.00 from the NJDOT for the paving of Donnybrook & Prospect. He reported that the bids received for the Compost project came in lower than budgeted, so he is optimistic the Borough will come in significantly under budget, but the responses are still being reviewed to ensure they are responsible. He anticipates an award recommendation by the next Council meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Bernstein asks if any member would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Mayor Bernstein asks if any member would like to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda.

Mayor Bernstein asks for a motion to accept the consent agenda (with any abstentions noted)

Consent Agenda:

- Resolution No. 215-25 Release of Escrow
- Resolution No. 216-25 Release of Performance Bond
- Resolution No. 217-25 Soil Moving Permit – 14 Deerhill Rd.
- Resolution No. 218-25 Payment of Bills

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

Roll Call:

- Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
- Nays: None

Approval of Minutes:

April 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

- Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
- Nays: None

April 7, 2025 Closed Session Minutes

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

Roll Call:

- Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
- Nays: None

June 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

November 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Fox

Meeting Open to the Public

Councilmember Collins made a motion to open to the public. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski and approved by all on a roll call vote.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, Councilmember Collins made a motion to close to the public. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski and approved by all on a roll call vote.

Closed Session Resolution 2025-013

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides for a Public Body to go into a Closed Session during a Public Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Demarest has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss matters which are exempted from the public.

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Borough of Demarest that the Governing Body shall go into closed session on December 8, 2025, for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:*

1. *Affordable Housing Legal Update*

Councilmember Collins made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-013 to convene a closed session. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

The Council returned to open session at 8:48 pm and Councilmember Reiss made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved by all on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Falkenstern, RMC
Borough Clerk