

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
December 29, 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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Councilmember Jiang

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Wendy Rubenstein Quiroga, Affordable Housing Attorney
Frank Visaggio, Acting Police Chief
Andrea Diekmann Johe, CFO
John McLoughlin, Fire Chief

Ordinance (Introduction): (*none*)

Ordinance Public Hearing (Adoption):

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 1172-25.

Roll Call:

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

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, Councilmember Marks made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collins and approved by all on a roll voice vote.

Council President Slowikowski made a motion to approve the adoption of ordinance 1172-25 with notice of final passage to be published as required by law. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks.

Roll Call:

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

Resolution No. 220-25 Approving Promotion of Police Chief Effective 1/1/26

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Marks to approve Resolution No. 220-25.

Roll Call:

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

Resolution No. 221-25 Approving Promotion of Deputy Police Chief Effective 1/1/26

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve Resolution 221-25.

Roll Call:

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

Resolution No. 222-25 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Mediation Agreement Regarding Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Marks.

Roll Call:

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

Consent Agenda

Mayor Bernstein asked if any member would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. (none)

Mayor Bernstein asked if any member would like to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda. (none)

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

Consent Agenda:

- Resolution No. 223-25 Authorizing Contract for Compost Site
- Resolution No. 224-25 Release of Escrow
- Resolution No. 225-25 Refund of Tax Overpayment
- Resolution No. 226-25 Approving Tax Court Judgement
- Resolution No. 227-25 Approving Capital Purchase – Salt Spreader
- Resolution No. 228-25 Approving Final Payment for Unimproved Roads – D&L Contractor
- Resolution No. 229-25 Approving Final Payment for NJDOT 2024 Project – DLS
- Resolution No. 230-25 Approving Budget Transfers
- Resolution No. 231-25 Payment to Colonelli Brother Emergency Work – Carol Ct.
- Resolution No. 232-25 Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Councilmember Reiss.

Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bernstein noted that there is an additional Resolution for the Council’s consideration.

Resolution No. 233-25 Soil Moving Permit for 292 County Rd.

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Councilmember Reiss.

Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bernstein then asked the Council to consider making a change to the Soil Moving Ordinance to allow a more streamlined process of issuing Soil Moving Permits. Ms. Rosendahl suggested that it may be possible to accomplish by resolution, but she will review the ordinance and advise.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein thanked the Borough's professionals, volunteers and staff for their work throughout the year and wished everyone a happy new year. He thanked the Council and Ms. Rubenstein Quiroga for their hard work on the resolution of the Affordable Housing Challenges from Fair Share Housing and 232 County Rd. He acknowledged that it was hard work to come to a conclusion that would be accepted by the judge, Fair Share Housing and still protected the Borough. He thanked the DPW for their excellent work plowing during the latest storm.

Council Committee Reports

Finance & Personnel (Slowikowski)

Council President Slowikowski noted that there was no report from the Finance Committee this evening, but offered a report on behalf of Councilmember Jiang, Chair of the Economic Development Committee in his absence. She reported on his behalf that the committee has made extensive progress throughout the year, but felt a thorough report to the public during the holiday season when many people are unavailable to attend meetings was inappropriate, so the Committee would be making its recommendation to the Council and then reporting to the public in January.

Ordinance (Fox)

Councilwoman Fox reported that the Committee is looking forward to finishing the Zoning Ordinance revision in early 2026. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

DPW & Recreation (Marks)

Councilmember Marks thanked everyone who volunteered with Recreation this year for their hard work. He similarly thanked the DPW and wished everyone a Happy new Year.

Economic Development (Jiang)

Absent

Police and OEM (Reiss)

Councilmember Reiss reported that the Police Department started a new tradition and gave two awards at their holiday celebration. Kyle Polo was named Rookie of the Year and Brian Hampton was named Officer of the Year. He congratulated them and thanked the entire Police Department for their fine work throughout the year. He then noted that Deputy Chief Visaggio and Captain Talty successfully completed a long year of FBI training. He noted that they were star students and instructors had asked if they would return to help instruct the course in the future.

Fire and EMS (Collins)

Councilmember Collins thanked the EMS and Fire Departments for their hard work volunteering and keeping the Borough's residents safe throughout the year. He also thanked the Fire Department for escorting Santa Claus throughout town. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator

Ms. Falkenstern congratulated Frank Visaggio and Brian Talty on their promotions approved tonight and effective 1/1/26 and wished everyone a happy new year.

Borough Attorney

Ms. Rosendahl thanked the Borough for the opportunity to work entire Governing Boday and staff of the Borough and noted that she enjoyed working with everyone and respects the collaborative and respectful way the entire Governing Body works together.

Borough Treasurer

Ms. Johe reported that the Borough has no tax sale this year, which means 100% tax collection. She thanked the Governing Body for the opportunity to serve as CFO and wished everyone a happy new year.

Police Chief

Acting Chief Visaggio reported on the department’s activity throughout the past month, wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the Governing Body for the opportunity to serve.

Fire Chief

Chief McLoughlin reported on the monthly activity of the department and advised that the Annual dinner is planned for 1/23/25 along with Haworth’s department.

Approval of Minutes:

December 8, 2025 Work Session Meeting

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to approve the 12/8/25 Work Session minutes.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Jiang

December 8, 2025 Closed Session Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to approve the 12/8/25 Closed Session minutes.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Jiang

Meeting Open to the Public

Councilmember Reiss made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collins and approved by all on a voice vote.

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

There being no more business before the Council, Councilmember Collins made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved by all on a voice vote. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern, RMC
Borough Clerk