

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:33 pm with the following announcement: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is posted at Borough Hall, was mailed to the Record and Star Ledger and was filed with the Borough Clerk of Demarest on January 19, 2021.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Mr. Carroll-present	Mrs. Kurys-absent
Mrs. Fox-present	Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Hamilton-present	Mrs. LaPira-present at 7:40 pm
Mayor Iannuzzi-present	

Also present: Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk/Coordinator, Borough Engineer, Borough Attorney

3. Mr. Carroll moved to Adopt the Agenda, second Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mrs. Hamilton-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes

Carried.

4. Live Saving recognition: Officers Joseph DelGreco, Dennis Cameron and Alana Luna and EMT members Andrew Woods and Roberta Hoag were recognized for their lifesaving efforts on May 30, 2021. Officers Dennis Cameron and Tony Dimitriadis and EMT members Andrew Woods, Roberta Hoag and EMT members from Haworth, Closter and Hackensack were recognized for their lifesaving efforts on November 5. The Mayor also read a statement about Interboro Mutual Aid. She thanked the volunteers and officers.

5. **The Borough Clerk read the following: Review of Consent Agenda Items:** All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for roll call vote in which case the

item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

## **Resolutions**

6. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$2,288,869.29\*
7. Resolution authorizing a fire department grant administrator\*
8. Resolution setting 2021 salaries for the non-collective bargaining unit employees\*
9. Resolution removing Block 23 Lot 15 from the tax rolls\*
10. Resolution authorizing Tax Collector to refund 2021 Veteran Deduction and reinstate same\*
11. Resolution appropriating for repairs to Glenwood Avenue and Academy Lane\*
12. Resolution authorizing payment to Asphalt Paving Systems\*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda or discussion.

Mr. Carroll moved to Open the meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried. Mr. Carroll moved to Close meeting to Public on Consent Agenda items only, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to approve Consent Agenda items 6-12, second Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mrs. Hamilton-yes
Mrs. Fox-abstain	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes	

Carried.

## **New Business**

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021 (JC, DF, MH, BC JK, RL), second Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mrs. Hamilton-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes	

Carried.

**Mayor's Report** The Mayor announced the appointment of David Lerner to the unexpired term ending in December 2023 for the Environmental Commission. This has been a busy month of celebrations, including the Menorah and Tree Lighting. Both were well attended. COVID cases are rising. The Mayor encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and to get a

booster. The Mayor thanked Janice Kurys for her service and announced that the Reorganization meeting will be on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

### **Council Committee Reports**

Police, Fire, and Public Events (Mr. Carroll) Thanks to the Fire and Police Departments for their cooperation with the events. Thanks to the Fire Department for the Santa visits. The Police Department is in the middle of interviews for promotions. The seniors went to Radio City on 12/10.

Ambulance and Recreation (Mrs. LaPira) on January 1 there will be a Family Fun Run/Walk. The link is on the Demarest FaceBook page.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee (Mrs. LaPira) The Environmental Commission finished the rain garden at the Middle School. Next year the EC plans to have a website and will coordinate with the Library to create a pollinator garden there.

Finance & Insurance Committee (Mr. Connelly) Tax collection has been exceptional. There were no tax sales. He commended the volunteers.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee (Mrs. Hamilton) There is a clothes recycling bin near the DPW. The leaves are done; the blankets are down on the fields. Thanks to Mr. Carroll for the trip to Radio City. The Mayor received no complaints about the leaves.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee (Mrs. Fox) The construction fees do not match the ordinance per the Corrective Action Plan. That needs to be addressed. She met with the Borough Administrator about option 6 for the new Borough Hall. She thinks it's a brilliant idea.

### **Reports of Borough Officials**

Borough Administrator: The Borough will transition to the use of gas cards instead of working with Closter. There are no hard feelings with Closter. A complaint was received from a resident on Central that the trees that were planted and the fencing are creating an obstruction. The fencing has been scaled back; the Borough Administrator suggested that one tree be removed. It will be removed in the spring. The Borough Attorney does not believe that a resolution is needed for option 6. The heat seems to be working in the Train Station, but due to the lack of insulation it does not get as warm as wanted. The Borough Administrator suggested an auxiliary heating system or a fan. Discussions will be held in committee. Mrs. Fox asked for permission to move ahead; it was granted. Jessica Wang wants to do her own minutes from now on. Also, she wants to get compacting public trash cans and is looking for Council support. The Council supports research into this. Discussion of trash. December 9 was the kickoff meeting with FEMA.

The cleanup at Cresskill Brook is 2/3 complete. The Chevy Bolt is back in service after some program updates. There is still work to be done. It is safe to be used.

Borough Coordinator Constant Contact is moving forward. A meeting was held with Mr. Cowie, who did the shade tree inventory. More than one hundred trees in the right of way are hazardous and need to be removed. The holiday party will be this Wednesday, 12/23, at 12:30.

Borough Attorney Two items for Closed Session on the Country Club tax appeal.

Borough Engineer Deerhill Road stabilization has had no problems. Davies dam also seems to be stabilized; there may be a DEP meeting. The compost site should be resolved during the first quarter of 2022. An update was made on several DOT projects. A proposal for Donnybrook Manor will come to the January 27 Mayor and Council meeting. Construction continues on the roadway for the 24-unit townhouse development. Various flooding issues in the borough are being worked on.

Borough Treasurer Have almost caught up from the backlog. An offer has been extended for a new person for the Finance Office. The CFO has spoken to the DPW about plans to remodel the office. There will be many transfers at the Sine Die meeting. Year-end work is underway.

Mrs. Fox asked whether the \$250,000 has been received for the Woodlands project. The first has been received. The CFO spoke about the Bergen County Improvement Authority and bond opportunities. Mrs. Fox moved to pass a resolution that the CFO inquire at the BCIA about rates and terms for bonding, second Mr. Carroll.

Mr. Carroll-yes  
Mrs. Fox-yes  
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Mrs. Hamilton-yes  
Mr. Connelly-yes

Carried.

Police: Lieutenant Foley thanked the Borough Attorney for his continued support with the OPRA requests. He then spoke about calls for service, mandatory and elective training, community events, the department response to the recent nationwide threat at high schools. Two Special Officers graduated from the Academy. A resident wrote to Officers DelGreco and Cameron for their sensitive help during a recent situation.

Fire Chief The Fire Grant has been submitted. The Chief has been working with the Borough Administrator on background checks. Thanks to everyone for support. The Department dinner is January 28.

Ambulance not present

Mr. Carroll moved to Open the meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

Helen Young (owns 71 Prescott Street) is currently renting the house. On 10/29 a large portion of a town maple tree fell on her home and did \$20,000 of damage. The tenant was not injured. Ms. Young stated that she had reported concern after a storm in 2020 and was told that the tree was healthy and that she would be fined if she removed it. A tree service removed the rest of that tree. After the tree fell in October, she reported a second tree that needed to be removed. The DPW superintendent agreed that it needed to be removed. Again, she was told by the Shade Tree Commission that it was healthy and could not be removed. Mr. Ulrich (a tree expert) stated that the tree needed to be climbed to determine its health. Ms. Young begged for help in this possibly very dangerous situation. The Mayor asked for time to look at the tree inventory and see if her tree is one of the trees deemed dangerous and in need of removal. The Shade Tree Commission also said that this was an Orange and Rockland responsibility. The Mayor will call Orange and Rockland tomorrow.

Noel Pugh (64 Prospect Street) followed up on his letter of June 28 concerning the unpermitted work done in April 2020. The DPW Superintendent and Borough Clerk both responded. The Mayor said that she would have the Engineers visit the site and investigate. The Clerk stated that one of the Engineers did have information for Mr. Pugh but didn't feel well and wasn't able to attend this evening.

Mr. Carroll moved to Close the meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to go into Closed Session for the Country Club Tax Appeal, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. No action to be taken after.

Mr. Carroll moved to close Closed Session, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to go into Open Session, second Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Crosman  
Borough Clerk/Coordinator