

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2016

Mayor Cywinski opened the meeting at 8:03 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 December 28, 2015.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Mr. Gray-present at 8:04 pm

Mr. Connolly-present

Mr. Davis-present at 8:04 pm

Mayor Cywinski-present

Mrs. Fox-present

Mrs. Iannuzzi-present

Mr. Paster-present

Also present: Borough Attorney, Borough Engineer, Police Chief, CFO, and Borough Coordinator/Clerk

Mrs. Fox moved to adopt the agenda, second Mr. Connolly. All in favor. Carried.

Presentation of Proclamation to Frank Lucia: Mr. Lucia is 106 today. The Mayor spoke of the privilege of celebrating with Mr. Lucia and read the proclamation declaring this week Frank Lucia week in the Borough of Demarest. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday."

Presentation by Bruno Associates – Grant Writers: Bruno has been in business for 45 years. The representatives gave a summary of the grant-seeking process and asked the Council to feel free to ask questions. Bruno has already spoken to the engineer about road paving. The Mayor asked for a summary of grants procured for other organizations. Mrs. Fox asked whether Bruno alerts the Council of opportunities. Yes they do. She asked that the Council be alerted of ongoing grants that might be new to Demarest. The Mayor spoke about looking forward to a beneficial partnership.

Presentation by the Demarest Nature Center: President, gave a summary of the Nature Center's regular activities, including birthday parties, children's activities, nature walks, clean ups, Oktoberfest, school programs, and senior service programs. The Nature Center has maintained the area for 40 years, and the lease must now be renewed. She asked for approval for a 20-year lease. The Mayor recommended going forward and applying to Green Acres for a renewed lease. Discussion. Mr. Doyle recommended approving subject to DEP approval, to speed up the process. He also asked whether a

20-year lease was necessary, rather than a 5-year lease with automatic renewal. Discussion. Mr. Paster moved to approve the application for a 20-year lease, with DEP approval, second Mrs. Fox.

Mr. Gray moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Gray moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Gray commended the volunteers at Nature Center for all of their work. Mr. Paster thanked them as well. The Mayor asked for a yearly report; he volunteered Mr. Connolly as a trustee.

Roll Call

Mr. Gray-yes	Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connolly-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mr. Paster-yes

PUBLIC HEARING: BOND ORDINANCE No. 1032-16 PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN AMBULANCE VEHICLE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$340,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$323,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF:

Mrs. Iannuzzi moved to put the ordinance forward, second Mr. Connolly.

Mrs. Iannuzzi moved to open the meeting to the Public on this ordinance, second Mr. Gray. All in favor. Carried.

Howard Rifkind began a discussion of the cost of the ambulance, joined by members of the Ambulance Corps.

Mrs. Iannuzzi moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connolly. All in favor. Carried.

The Mayor asked about the BAN and bonding mentioned at the last meeting. Mr. Moore spoke about combining recent bond ordinances.

Roll Call

Mr. Gray-yes	Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connolly-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mr. Paster-yes

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 1033-16, AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE RANGES FOR THE SALARIES, WAGES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR 2015 AND THEREAFTER:

Mr. Gray moved to put the ordinance forward, second Mrs. Iannuzzi.

Mrs. Fox moved to open the meeting to the Public on the salary ordinance with ranges, second Mr. Gray. All in favor. Carried.

Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connolly. All in favor. Carried.

Roll Call

Mr. Gray-yes	Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connolly-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mr. Paster-yes

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

9. Resolution authorizing a soil movement application for 39 Prescott Street*
10. Resolution opposing Suez tax increase*
11. Resolution approving the temporary capital budget*
12. Resolution approving budget transfers in the amount of \$1,000.00*
13. Motion appointing the law firm of Ruderman, Horn and Esmerado, PC as Labor Attorney*

Request to remove items from Consent Agenda: Mrs. Fox noted that #18 seems to be a duplicate. It was removed. Mr. Paster moved to remove #13 for a separate vote. Mayor Cywinski moved to remove #10.

Discussion on items removed from Consent Agenda: Mr. Paster asked about qualifications, concerning #13.

Motion to open the meeting to the Public on # 9, 11, 12: Mr. Gray moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mr. Davis. All in favor. Carried.

Motion by Mr. Gray seconded by Mrs. Fox to close meeting to Public on Consent Agenda items only:

18. Resolution approving the temporary capital budget* - removed since this was a duplicate entry.

Mr. Gray moved to approve Consent Agenda items 9, 11, 12, second Mr. Davis.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Gray-yes	Mr. Connolly-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Paster-yes

Mrs. Fox moved to approve item #13, second Mr. Gray.

Mrs. Iannuzzi moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mr. Gray. All in favor.

Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Iannuzzi. All in favor.

Mr. Gray stated that the subcommittee was very impressed with what the law firm was able to present; Mrs. Fox agreed.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Gray-yes	Mr. Connolly-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Paster-abstain

Mr. Gray took over the meeting while the Mayor stepped down. Mrs. Fox moved to approve item #10, second Mrs. Iannuzzi.

Mrs. Fox moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Iannuzzi. All in favor.

Mr. Rifkind asked for an explanation, which was given by Ms. Crosman. This was to oppose the increase the water company was seeking.

Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Iannuzzi. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Gray-yes	Mr. Connolly-yes
Mr. Davis-yes	Mrs. Iannuzzi-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Paster-yes

Mr. Gray moved to open the meeting, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Cuomo spoke about the high school referendum, the 2% cap, the bond, and its accompanying tax implication. He also spoke in favor of continuing to produce a print newsletter. Mrs. Fox replied that anyone who requests a printed newsletter will receive it. Discussion. He also asked about the possibility of redesigning the website, as he finds it difficult to navigate.

Mr. Rifkind asked a question about the bond; Mr. Doyle felt it was a question for the bond counsel. Discussion. Mr. Rifkind stated that he is opposed to not mailing the newsletter.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Gordon of Northern Valley High School has guaranteed that information will be sent out to residents before the referendum vote.

Noel Pugh, 64 Prospect Street, spoke about the elevation at 9 Donnybrook. He said that the drain has had several iterations in an attempt to fix the issue, dating back to the 1980s. Erosion has resulted. The drains cannot handle the water caused by regular storms. Letters have been sent. He believes that nearby residents should be alerted in such situations and that the Planning Board should have a say. He also spoke against the 5-minute limit on public comments. The Mayor asked whether the engineer has had further conversations with the builder. He has not. He is waiting to hear back from the DPW.

The Mayor stated that although the Construction Official was scheduled to come to this meeting he will visit on February 22 instead due to a conflict regarding zoning ordinance modifications.

Bob Gioia, 6 Drury Lane, spoke about the difficulty of his street in wintertime which is Drury Lane and also unimproved.. Mr. Paster asked that this be brought up in the work session. He spoke of the follow-up work he has done. He recommended authorizing the engineer to put together a bid spec for fixing the Drury Lane issues. Mr. VanderVeer stated that the road should be widened and that the problem is that the right of way is only 20 feet wide. The DPW should regularly check that the drain is clear. More drains may be needed on the street. Construction costs for 550 feet of road improvement would be about \$150,000. Discussion. The Mayor felt this work might qualify for a grant and suggested reaching out to the grantwriters. Mr. Davis spoke about the recent DPW committee meeting and that they are also working toward a solution. Mr. Gray felt that an easement was needed. Various Council members will reach out to the school and grantwriters.

Mr. Paster moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Iannuzzi. All in favor. Carried.

Closed Session items included contract negotiations and personnel. This will be after the work session.

Mr. Gray moved to adjourn this meeting, second Mr. Connolly. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Crosman, RMC
Borough Clerk/Coordinator