

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST  
MEETING Minutes  
July 8, 2024  
7:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm at the Demarest Borough Council Chambers.

Mayor Bernstein read the compliance statement and invited all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

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

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang,  
Also Present:

**ORDINANCE (INTRODUCTION):**

**Ordinance No. 1142-24 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 563 PIERMONT ROAD, AND DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST AS BLOCK 67, LOTS 5.01 AND 6 FOR PUBLIC USE**

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Collins to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1142-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on July 22, 2024.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

**Ordinance No. 1143-24 AN ORDINANCE TO FIX 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.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1143-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on July 22, 2024.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

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**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING (ADOPTION):**

**Ordinance No. 1138-24 PRIVATELY OWNED SALT STORAGE**

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Collins to a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1138-2024

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

There being no public wishing to speak, Councilmember Fox made a motion to close the public hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

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**Ordinance No. 1139-24 IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE**

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Marks to a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1139-2024

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

There being no public wishing to speak, Councilmember Collins made a motion to close the public hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

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**Ordinance No. 1140-24 WILDLIFE FEEDING**

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Fox to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1140-2024

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

There being no public wishing to speak, Councilmember Fox made a motion to close the public hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record. Councilmember Reiss seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

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**Ordinance No. 1141-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 135 OF THE DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE**

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Marks to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1141-2024

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

There being no public wishing to speak, Councilmember Fox made a motion to close the public hearing on this ordinance and that it be adopted with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record. Councilmember Collins seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

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**Resolution 128-24 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY PURCHASE PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:11-6**

Ms. Falkenstern explained that this resolution is to authorize an emergency expense required to fix a sinkhole that occurred late last week on Chestnut St.

A motion to approve Resolution 128-24 was offered by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Collins.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

**Work Session Discussion Items:**

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Chelius reviewed the engineer's report and reviewed the status of the DOT paving projects and Riverside Coop project that started on July 8. Paving is scheduled to begin on or about 7/16, however a fire on 7/8 at the Tilcon plant may impact that schedule. He reported that the Pine Terrace drainage project is taking longer than anticipated but should be complete in 3 weeks. He reported that Colliers is still awaiting a response on the large tree requirement from Green Acres. GIS mapping is almost complete.

**Consent Agenda:**

Resolution No. 126-24 Authorizing Payment for Covino & Sons (Pine Terrace Drainage)

Resolution No. 127-24 Payment of Bills

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was offered by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Marks.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

**Meeting Open to the Public**

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

Andrew Correa, Scoutmaster of Troop #20

Mr. Correa discussed upcoming events that the scouts would like to plan in Demarest. Mayor Bernstein asked Mr. Correa to provide the details to the Borough Administrator for distribution to the Council.

Scott Cowan  
35 Prescott

Mr. Cowan explained that he was looking for coverage for an incident where a Demarest Police Officer forced entry into his home at the request of his tenant. Mayor Bernstein asked if the tenant had offered to pay the cost of the damage. Mr. Cowan said she did, but she wanted to use an inferior door. After several attempts by Mayor Bernstein to ascertain what cost the tenant was willing to pay, Mr. Cowan did not commit to a cost, but stated he didn't believe she had the funds. It was noted that the insurance claim was denied by the Borough's carrier because the tenant gave the police permission to force entry. Mayor Bernstein said he would consult with the Council and report back to Mr. Cowan.

**Closed Session - Potential Litigation Update – No action to be taken**

A motion to approve the move to closed session was offered by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Collins.

Ayes: Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks,  
Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

Absent: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang

The Council returned to open session at 9:00 pm where Councilmember Collins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved by all. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern  
Acting Borough Clerk