

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST MEETING MINUTES  
December 9, 2024  
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.

Mayor Bernstein invited those present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Absent: None

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator  
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney  
Shivam Patel, Finance Assistant  
Jason Gangi, DPW Director  
Nick Chelius, Borough Engineer  
Fire Chief John McLoughlin  
Fire Department Members

Councilmember Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reiss and approved by all to suspend the regular order of business to present Community Service Awards to the Demarest Volunteer Fire Department, DAA Volunteer Don Morgan, and Recreation Commission Trustees.

Mayor Bernstein spoke about the work of Acting Borough Clerk and Administrator, Julie Falkenstern, and thanked her for her work.

**Community Service Awards Presentation:**

Mayor Bernstein presented certificates of appreciation for recognition of Outstanding Community Service in 2024 to the following Borough volunteers: *(full comments attached)*

Volunteer Fire Department Members:

Chief John Mcloughlin  
Assistant Chief Carl Pavlik  
Captain John Young  
Lieutenant Matthew Carey  
Lieutenant Matthew Mayer

Firefighter:  
Anthony Barbieri  
Jeffery Bellusci  
Alfred Bolduc  
Michael Ceccon  
Brian Groschel  
Damien Hunter  
John Iovino  
Eric Mareello  
Jonathan Matics  
Sean McFadden  
Michael Morrison  
Travis Morrison  
Richard Motta  
Kyle Pavlik  
Kevin Peter  
Timothy Slattery  
Robert Teunisen

Auxillary Firefighter Alex Teunisen

Junior Firefighters Liam Carey, Skye Lee

Leigh Barker, Recreation Commission Chair  
Vanessa McAndrews, Recreation Commission Halloween  
Brandis Bukzin, Recreation Commission, Demarest Day  
Alli Deutsch, Recreation Commission, Summer Camp  
Punit Munda, Recreation Commission Men's Basketball  
Stacie Findanis, Recreation Commission Holiday Tree Lighting  
Dakota Griffin, Demarest Day

Don Morgan, Demarest Athletic Association

Mike Ference from DAA spoke further about Mr. Morgan's selfless dedication to the DAA.

**ORDINANCE (INTRODUCTION):**

**ORDINANCE 1152-24** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A JOINT PLANNING BOARD AND AMENDING CHAPTER 27 ENTITLED "LAND USE PROCEDURES"

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1152-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on December 23, 2024.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Nays:** None

Councilmember Fox noted that while she is not yet convinced that she agrees with creating a joint board, she is voting yes on the introduction because she believes a public hearing is the appropriate venue to hear from the public on the issue and make a decision.

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING (ADOPTION):**

**ORDINANCE 1150-24 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND MODIFYING ARTICLE IV PERSONNEL REGULATIONS, §40-23 OF THE DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE**

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Reiss to open the public hearing on Ordinance # 1150-2024

**Roll Call:**

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

**Nays:** None

Mayor Bernstein asked if anyone wishes to be heard concerning adoption of this ordinance.

Speaker(s):

None

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

**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

Mr. Chelius reviewed the monthly engineering report, highlighting the status of paving projects including the schedule of early 2025 bidding of paving projects for Stewart & Stelfox and Forest & Prescott with the goal of Spring 2025 paving for both projects. He added that the CAP should be filled with the DEP by the end of the week.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Bernstein asked if any member would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. No one asked for any items to be removed.

Mayor Bernstein asks if any member would like to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda. Councilmember Fox noted that she will be abstaining from voting on resolution 207-24.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

Resolution No. 203-24	Authorizing Budget Transfers
Resolution No. 204-24	Authorizing Engineering Services for Dam Inspection
Resolution No. 205-24	Return of Escrow
Resolution No. 206-24	Authorizing MOA with PBA Local 350
Resolution No. 207-24	Authorizing MOA with Teamsters Local 125
Resolution No. 208-24	Bills List
Resolution No. 209-24	Authorizing Execution of Lease Agreement with TASOC
Resolution No. 210-24	Soil Moving – 242 Hardenburgh
Resolution No. 211-24	Authorizing Payment #5 Covino & Sons (Pine Terr. Drainage)
Resolution No. 212-24	Authorizing Bergen County Police Academy Training

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

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** **Councilmember Fox on Resolution 207-24**

**Minutes for Approval:**

November 25, 2024 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve the minutes of the 11/25/24 Council Meeting.

**Roll Call:**

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

## **Meeting Open to the Public**

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Collins to open the meeting to the public.

### **Roll Call:**

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

**Nays:** None

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, the meeting was closed.

### **Closed Session - Resolution No. 2024-011**

Legal Update on Affordable Housing

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to approve resolution 2024-011 to approve the Council convening a closed session for the purpose of receiving a legal update on Affordable Housing Legislation at 8:15 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

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

**Nays:** None

The Council returned to public session at 9:25 pm where Councilmember Reiss made a motion seconded by Councilmember Collins to adjourn. All members consented and the meeting was therefore adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern  
Acting Borough Clerk