

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 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 a 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

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

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Also Present: Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Jason Gangi, Public Works Manager
Peter Suh, CFO
Anthony Dimitriadis, Police Chief
Roberta Hoag, EMS Chief
John McLoughlin, Fire Chief

Ordinance (Introduction):

**Ordinance No. 1130-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 27, ARTICLE II
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, VARIANCE CHECKLIST**

A motion was made by Councilmember Collins and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1130-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Ordinance No. 1131-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 175 ZONING PROHIBITED USES

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Councilmember Marks to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1131-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Ordinance No. 1132-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 32 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1132-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Ordinance No. 1133-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 176 RAFFLE AND BINGO LICENSES

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1133-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Ordinance No. 1134-24 AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 175 ZONING FEES AND ESCROW FOR VARIANCE AND CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATIONS

A motion was made by Councilmember Reiss and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1134-24 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Ordinance Public Hearing (Adoption): (none)

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Marks to approve the consent agenda with an abstention by Councilmember Reiss on Resolution 078-24.

Consent Agenda:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Resolution No. 068-24 | Approving Payment #3 – Final American Asphalt – 2021 Roads |
| Resolution No. 069-24 | Accepting Donation from Vikings Soccer |
| Resolution No. 070-24 | Authorizing Colliers Engineering – Tier A Stormwater Reporting |
| Resolution No. 071-24 | Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate |
| Resolution No. 072-24 | Authorizing Awarding Bid for Pine Terrace Drainage |
| Resolution No. 073-24 | Authorizing Municipal Alliance FY 2025 |
| Resolution No. 074-24 | Authorizing Demarest PD Participation in LESO 1033 Program |
| Resolution No. 075-24 | Authorizing Foreman DPW – McCauley |
| Resolution No. 076-24 | Authorizing DPW New Hire – Keohane |
| Resolution No. 077-24 | Authorizing Colliers Engineering – GIS Mapping Preparation |
| Resolution No. 078-24 | Authorizing Execution of Developer’s Agreement – 95 County Rd. |
| Resolution No. 079-24 | Bills List |
| Resolution No. 080-24 | Escrow Release – 177 Orchard Rd. |
| Resolution No. 081-24 | Soil Moving – 70 Prospect |
| Resolution No. 082-24 | Soil Moving – 8 Blanch |
| Resolution No. 083-24 | Conservation Easement – Ken’s Tree Care |

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox

Abstain: Councilmember Reiss (*Resolution 078-24)

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Bernstein thanked Borough staff in all departments for their storm response. Additionally, he thanked the Police Department for rescuing a missing puppy and working with Borough Hall staff to locate the family. He noted that the Borough Staff enjoyed having the puppy at the office for the day.

Lastly, he reported that during a recent meeting with the Bergen County Executive in regard to shared services it was confirmed that Demarest has current agreements for 11 of the possible 12 shared services offered by the County. The last of which is being discussed and will be shared at a later date when appropriate.

Council Committee Reports

Finance & Personnel (Slowikowski)

Council President Slowikowski reported that the finance committee had its first budget meeting this week and they will continue to work with the departments head over the next few weeks to finalize a budget.

Ordinance (Fox)

No Report

DPW & Recreation (Marks)

Councilman Marks reported that the agenda this evening included a new hire that was recommended by DPW Manager Jason Gangi and that the previous new hiring is working out well, so the department is now considered fully staffed. He added that new recycling information could be found on the website.

Economic Development (Jiang)

Councilman Jiang reported that he was awaiting new information from the Borough Planner and would report any updates at future meetings. He also reported that the BOE plans to begin work on the new gym at the middle school this summer for completion before the 2024 school year.

Police and OEM (Reiss)

Councilman Reiss reported that the PD would be participating in the DEA's take back initiative on April 27. Unused prescription drugs can be dropped off at the PD along with e cigarettes.

Fire and EMS (Collins)

Councilmember Collins reported that the Borough is continuing to explore whether or not it is appropriate to bill for EMS services and he will report back in the future.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator

Ms. Falkenstern reported that the new website was up and running and reminded residents that dog licenses are now due. Additionally, she reported that she is working with Neglia Engineering on an Open Space Project that will have a public hearing in April to refurbish the gazebo.

Borough Attorney

Ms. Rosendahl reported that the quiet title action is underway for the donation of the Church property, and she would expect the entire process to take another 2 months.

Borough Treasurer

The Treasurer had no report.

Ambulance

Chief Hoag reported that there have been 24 calls on which 18 the DVAC responded, the other 6 were cancelled. She reported a 4-minute average response time and that there are two young people attending EMT school.

Police Chief

Chief Dimitriadis reported the below:

Appreciate the DPW coming out this weekend to assist with minor flooding issues.

Congratulations to recently promoted Lt. Paul Schmidig. He's coordinating with the DEA the drop off and collection of the drop box.

On Saturday April 27, 2024 from 10am-2pm, the Demarest Police Department will be taking part in the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Take Back Initiative.

The police department will serve as a collection site for citizens to rid their homes of unused, unwanted, or expired medications by disposing of them in a safe and anonymous manner. We will also accept Vape pens or other e-cigarette devices as long as the batteries are safely removed.

Keeping medications away from children and those that may abuse will only serve to keep our community safer. This will also serve to remind our residents that we maintain a medication disposal mailbox in our HQ that they discard unwanted drugs not just that day but throughout the year.

On Tuesday March 12th the police department conducted a pedestrian safety detail on Hardenburgh Ave. in our business district. The goal was to alert drivers to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Was at NJDMV and received a link to schedule the mobile DMV Van

*The Demarest Police Department logged a total of 824 calls for service and Administrative activities from last council meeting 02/26/24 to 03/24/2024
Some of these calls for service include:*

Fraud – 3

Verbal Dispute – 1

Domestic Violence – 1 mandatory arrest

MV Crashes – 5

Medical Calls for service – 15

Fire Chief

Chief McLoughlin reported there have been 92 calls YTD, 1100 hours of training and he is working on his SAFER grant with the grant writer.

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.

Lynn Paulison
15 Lois

Ms. Paulison asked for information about recycling bulk items vs. putting them out for regular trash. The Borough Administrator advised her to check the website for some newly posted advice that was provided by an interested resident.

Ms. Paulison also commented that new signage would be helpful at the PD for the regular drop off of prescription drugs.

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

Council President Slowikowski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Reiss and approved by all. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern
Acting Borough Clerk