



Borough of Wallington
Mayor and Council Public Session Minutes
Thursday, November 9th, 2023, 6:30 P.M., Civic Center

A quorum was established. A Caucus / Work Session of the Borough of Wallington Mayor and Council was held at the Wallington Civic Center on Thursday, November 9th, 2023, presided over by Mayor Dabal with Ace Antonio as Acting Municipal Clerk. Mayor Dabal called the meeting to order at **6:31 P.M.** and read the OPMA Notice, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Dabal wanted to announce and recognize Lorraine G. Klamerus, former Wallington Municipal Clerk who had passed away. Ms. Klamerus was the Municipal Clerk for 25 years and dedicated to the Borough, stating people liked her very much, and didn't know her well, but personally knew her daughter. Mayor Dabal stated she knew Ms. Klamerus when she was a Councilwoman in 2017 and thought of her kind, personable, professional and did a great job at Borough Hall. Mayor Dabal proceeded with the Invocation.

ROLL CALL: Members Present – Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik, Dabal
Members Absent – Androwis, Sadecki
Also Present- Borough Attorney Allen

Borough Attorney Allen wanted to note in the Minutes of the meeting at **6:33 P.M.** that Councilwoman Ivanicki is participating remotely and that she can hear all of what is occurring in the hall and the members can hear her as well.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Mayor Dabal requested a motion to **OPEN** to the public for the **HEARING OF CITIZENS**. **Ms. Preinfalk** motioned to **OPEN** the **HEARING OF CITIZENS** and seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**.

John Rebecky (269 Hathaway Street) Mr. Rebecky wanted to wish “On behalf of all your supporters and your fellow Council members” congratulations. Mr. Rebecky wanted to note that “for weathering not one, but two very difficult political stories. Those that put their faith and trust in you, would be the citizens. I hope at some point they realize the toughness that [must] endure.” Mr. Rebecky again wanted to show his gratefulness.

Councilman Christopher Sinisi (10 Lilac Lane), address not provided for the record, had a question about ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08 for the Emergency Squad and not the Fire Department. Ms. Ivanicki responded stating that she has met with FD officers since February and states there hasn't been an increase since 2021. Ms. Ivanicki stated that the increase was based on the recommendation by the Chiefs and being introduced tonight, where there are two ordinances on the Agenda for both the Emergency Squad and Fire Department.

Mr. Sinisi questioned the status of the Police Department. Mayor responded stating the original goal is to move the police station to the Kearny Bank. She further explained the Sally port needed to be added, ADA accessibility, an elevator which was exponentially higher than just renovating the existing building. Mayor stated the plan is to move borough offices there and consolidate. Mr. Sinisi inquired if there was anything there presently. Mayor stated that presently the Building Department and over all looking to expand that location and would be a perfect location. Mayor further stated that the building was a “steel” stating it was under half a million. Based on the history, Mayor understood that the borough is expanding and has thoughts of expanding the Senior Center and putting more office space. Mayor further stated once the library is built, the DPW upstairs will be empty and additional opportunity. Mayor stated that the idea is to make the new municipal building, put a digital sign, and would be great.

Mr. Sinisi requested that information such police department, municipal building be put in the next town letter and to include photos of the construction and suggested putting it on the Borough website. Mr. Sinisi is requesting additional content such as videos. Mayor agreed it was a good idea and would plan on moving forward.

Mr. Sinisi questioned regarding Mr. Sireci and if he would be getting replaced? Mayor stated “no, absolutely not.”

Mr. Sinisi questioned if Mr. Rachelski will be getting a starting job in 2024 in the borough. Mayor stated, “absolutely not.”



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Mr. Rebecky brought up regarding the police station, “fact that we’ve been pretty much in power, us being Republicans, since 2015, prior to that, perhaps 24-30 years, that building is the only thing it saw was an elevator, which half the time never worked.” Mr. Rebecky further stated the police station was neglected and stated the building was falling apart. Mr. Rebecky stated, “the hypocrisy for them to use that as campaign literature just showed you, they had nothing.” Furthermore stating “my rid of other accusatory statements, unfounded by fact. And that’s what happens when there’s a lack of information, it becomes fabrication.” Mayor thanked Mr. Rebecky for his comments.

Ms. Preinfalk motioned to **CLOSE** the **HEARING OF CITIZENS** and seconded by **Ms. Balik**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dabal requested approval of the minutes. Council members stated they did not get a chance to review them thoroughly and stated lets “encourage whoever wrote these to really go through the recording and let’s make sure that critical items are in the minutes.” Council further stated, “in order to approve them this year, there being a few meetings left, let’s make sure that if the borough clerk, acting borough clerk could review and try to make them more precise.” **Ms. Balik** motioned to table the **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**, seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Unanimously approved to table July 20th, 2023, Regular Public Session Minutes, August 24th, 2023, Regular Public Session Minutes, September 7th, 2023, Caucus / Work Session Minutes, September 21st, 2023, Regular Public Session Minutes, and October 5th, 2023, Caucus / Work Session Minutes. Unanimously tabled by roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Preinfalk motion to approve “en mass”, seconded by **Ms. Ivanicki**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 184:** Authorization for The Governing Body to Convene into Executive Session
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 185:** Authorization Payment of Bills and Supplemental List of Bills
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 186:** Authorizing the Borough of Wallington to Cancel Old Outstanding Checks, Deposits in Transit and Reconciling Items
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 188:** Authorizing an Electrical Permit Refund to Mr. Mark Iwaszk
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 189:** A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Municipal Clerk to Cancel the November 16, 2023, Public Meeting Of The Mayor And Council

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-195 Resolution For Bergen County Municipalities To Endorse Project Applications To Be Submitted To The Bergen County Division Of Community Development was added to the **CONSENT AGENDA** after the Agenda was originally drafted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Dabal announced a late addition to **COMMUNICATIONS**, the Annual Veteran’s Day Memorial, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Pavlick - Koster Post No 2640 will be on November 11th, 2023, at 11 AM and everyone is invited. Mayor advised DPW Superintendent Ray Dynes to be aware of the ceremony and will be assisting in the set up. Mayor requested a motion to refer the above communications to the proper departments.

Ms. Preinfalk motioned to approve the following communications, and to delegate them to the proper department heads. Motion was seconded by **Ms. Ivanicki**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

1. Bergen County Division of Community Development Update
Robert Esposito, Director



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2. Wallington Board of Education Request #5 Tax Appropriations
Jody Pietrowitz, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
3. Legal Notice – Township of South Hackensack Planning Board
Kenneth A. Porro, Esq – Planning Board Attorney
4. PSEG 2023 Energy Assistance Outreach Conference Invitation
Patricia Sheats, Sr. Administrative Associate, PSEG Regional Public Affairs
5. Legal Notice, City of Passaic – Garden Society, LLC, Planning Board
Charles H. Sarlo, Esq. Attorney for Applicant
6. Legal Notice, City of Passaic – Luxxe Green, LLC, Planning Board
Charles H. Sarlo, Esq. Attorney for Applicant
7. Jefferson School Annex Notification Re: Evacuation Drill
Lillian Perez, Principal – Jefferson School Annex
8. 13th Annual Bluegrass & Cider 2023 Concert Series Invitation
Amanda Karpinski, MPA PIO, County of Bergen
9. Rabies Clinic Request – November 4th, 2023
Marta Goldyn, Board of Health Secretary
10. 2023 Annual Rabies Clinic Flyer
Marta Goldyn, Board of Health Secretary
11. Board of Health Minutes – September 6th, 2023
Marta Goldyn, Board of Health Secretary
12. Wallington Planning Board Minutes – September 19th, 2023
Marta Goldyn, Planning Board Secretary
13. Re: Support for Syncarpha Community Solar in Wallington
Eric MisBach, Director Community Solar
14. Neglia Engineering Re: All Way- Stop Warrants at Multiple Intersections Report
David Juzmeski, P.E., P.P., Principal
15. Notification Re: Holiday Festival (Christmas Tree Lighting)
Karen Zupanovich
16. NJLM, New Jersey State League of Municipalities
Re: Hospitality Functions, Housing, Shuttle Bus
Michael Cerra, Executive Director
17. Syncarpha Re: Support for Syncarpha Community Solar in Wallington
Eric Misbach, Director of Community Solar



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18. Digital Transformation with ScanTek
Joe Callahan, Business Development Manager
19. Seminar Opportunity: Newly Elected, Reelected or Experienced – Orientation for Municipal Officials
New Jersey League of Municipalities
20. October 2023 Emergency Squad Monthly Report
Lt. Monica Digiori
21. October Monthly Report
Nick Melfi, Building Official
22. NJ Transit Informational Public Hearing Notice
NJ Transit
23. Veteran's Day Press Release from County of Bergen
Derek Sands, Chief of Staff of the County Executive

ORDINANCES

Ms. Ivanicki motioned and introduced by title only, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08, An Ordinance To Amend And Supplement Section 49-17 Of The Code Of The Borough Of Wallington To Amend The Stipends For Certain Officers Of The Fire Department. **Mr. Rachelski** seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

Ms. Preinfalk motioned and introduced by title only, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09, An Ordinance To Amend And Supplement Section 35-6 Of The Code Of The Borough Of Wallington To Amend The Stipends For Certain Officers Of The Emergency Squad. **Mr. Rachelski** seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Dabal requested a motion for **RESOLUTIONS NO. 2023-187, 2023-191, 2023-192, 2023-193**. **Ms. Preinfalk** motioned to approve **RESOLUTIONS NO. 2023-187, 2023-191, 2023-192, and 2023-193**, seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Motion carried unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 187:** 2023 Best Practices Inventory Survey - Presentation by David Sireci, Chief Municipal Financial Officer.
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 191:** Resolution to Award Contract for Mount Pleasant Basketball Court Improvements (BCOF)
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 192:** Authorizing A Payment Order To Keytech For The 2019 Roadway Improvements Program (NJDOT & CDBG)
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 193:** Authorizing The Appointment Of Two Police Officers To The Wallington Police Department
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 194:** Authorizing And Directing The Municipal Clerk To Advertise For Request For Proposals For Various Professional And Non-Professional Services On Behalf Of The Borough.



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Mayor Dabal tabled **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 190**: Appointment Jennifer Appice as Borough Administrator, to be able to discuss in EXECUTIVE SESSION to go over in detail for the benefit of the Council and action will be taken after EXECUTIVE SESSION. Mayor also wanted to address to the public that two police officers Michelle Weglarz and Konrad Blasiak on tonight's agenda.

APPLICATIONS

Mayor requested a motion to approve Raffle Application, **RA 23-310**: NJ Food & Clothing Rescue Raffle Application – December 3rd, 2023. Motion made by **Ms. Balik** to approve, seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Motion carried unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: **AYES:** Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. David Sireci, Chief Municipal Finance Officer, had a special presentation to the Mayor and Council regarding the 2023: Best Practices Survey. Mr. Sireci stated that in 2011 the Division of Local Financial Services, under the direction of the Governor's Office, a series of questions must be answered otherwise state aid will be held and a discussion must occur in a public meeting and the present update meets the state statute requirements. Mr. Sireci went over the 67 questions, which are divided into three categories. Mr. Sireci explained that under best practices this would address the fiscal and operational practices that are significant in many municipalities, however, are not applicable to everyone. Mr. Sireci reported that the highest score in the best practices is 35.5 or 85% and the Borough scored 42. Mr. Sireci further reported that the score would be no reduction in state aid. Compared to last year it was 86% but the questions are different from last year. Mr. Sireci stated the loss in points is the lack of electric vehicles and charging stations, which most municipalities haven't really taken on.

Mayor Dabal stated that because of Ms. Preinfalk's efforts in taking on the initiative, putting electric charging stations in the library, it would change the score possibly next year. Mr. Sireci reports that the state has been proactively pushing for electric vehicles and discussed the benefits and disadvantages, however states that overall, the no points should not affect the overall bigger picture. Mr. Sireci reported that there are a few items that need to be addressed, but the items are not critical to the day-to-day operations. Overall, no changes in the state aid, and the borough is compliant. Mr. Sireci asked the Mayor and Council if there were any questions regarding the survey. No questions, and the Council was satisfied with the discussion and report by David Sireci.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rachelski and Ms. Balik brought up the transmission of the Mayor and Council packets. Mr. Rachelski stated that the email transmission was a good idea, however difficulties opening the attachments, and were displeased with the form of delivery. Ms. Balik stated that the way the email is displayed in the agenda is not helpful and very difficult to open. Mayor Dabal stated that moving forward the Mayor and Council packets will be in paper form.

Ms. Balik brought up the parking issue with tenants from Mt. Pleasant apartments parking on Spring Court, which has been an ongoing issue. Ms. Balik has received several complaints from residents regarding this issue and whether there is an ordinance to enforce the ongoing parking issue. Further discussion by the Mayor and Council regarding the issue, and Mayor stated that she had envisioned to start putting a sign prior to implementing stickers. Mayor further stated that there are additional factors to consider, such as time restraints and unknown vehicles visiting residents. Further discussion regarding the limited parking available at the apartments. Suggestion was made to possible put an app together. Mayor and Council further discussed time of parking, who the restricted parking apply too, and various specific streets.



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Ms. Balik motioned to introduce ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10 by title only and amend Restricted Street Parking on specifically streets, Krug Court, Fradkin Street, Spring Street, Spring Court, and Crescent Road, Marilyn Court, and Elizabeth Street, seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Motion unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Preinfalk spoke about the Holiday Festival. Ms. Preinfalk discussed the original date scheduled was December 2nd, 2023, but with issues with rain dates, the date for the Holiday Festival will be Friday, December 1st, 2023, with a rain date of December 2nd, 2023.

Ms. Preinfalk stated that there is a need for more sponsors for the event, and Councilman-Elect Dennis Graham stated from the audience that he would assist.

The Mayor and Council had a discussion regarding the Christmas decorations around the borough and wanted to install them on Main Avenue, specifically adding garland on the Welcome to Wallington sign. Additional issues with the presentation of the garland were addressed.

Ms. Preinfalk wanted to give an update regarding the Library construction. Ms. Preinfalk stated that the Library would be vacating their existing space and suggested that the DPW move to the library's former location. Ms. Preinfalk suggested renovating the vacated space to hold recreational programs. Expanding to have the vacated space for doing Zumba, Yoga, and possible save the expense of renting the Knights of Columbus Hall. Furthermore, the moving company for the library will begin their move at the end of December and looking at early January for opening. Due to the vacated space, there is possibilities to host the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and additional space that can be utilized for the borough.

The Mayor and Council further discussed the open space, and the possible ideas for renovations such as adding in a ventilation system, fixing the floors, putting up new paint and the expenditures of renting out the Knights of Columbus. Ms. Preinfalk stated that the recreational programs are going to continue to expand and utilize space. The Mayor and Council stated they would table the discussion but stated the significant savings are present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Balik motioned to convene into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** as per **RESOLUTION 2023-184** in accordance with Title 10 Chapter 4 through 12 Section B to discuss **personnel, litigation, and contracts**. Seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote. Action will be taken afterwards.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Balik

ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:23 P.M.

RETURNED INTO PUBLIC SESSION AT 8:56 P.M.

Ms. Ivanicki's communication was disconnected at the return of Public Session.

Ms. Preinfalk motioned **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-195** Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Carlstadt. Seconded by **Ms. Balik**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote. Action will be taken afterwards.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Preinfalk, Balik



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Ms. Balik motioned **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-196** Resolution Authorizing A One Time Additional Stipend To Construction Code Officials And Inspectors Due To Extraordinary Demand. Seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Preinfalk, Balik

Ms. Preinfalk motioned **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-197** Resolution Crossing Guard 5-Year Contract, with a 4% increase, 8 holidays and an annual \$500 Clothing Allowance. Seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Preinfalk, Balik

Ms. Preinfalk motioned **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-190** Appoint Jennifer Appice as Borough Administrator effective start date, November 27th, 2023. Seconded by **Mr. Rachelski**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Preinfalk, Balik

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Dabal requested a motion for adjournment. **Ms. Preinfalk** moved for adjournment of the meeting, seconded by **Ms. Balik**. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Preinfalk, Balik

The meeting was adjourned at **8:59 P.M.**

Respectfully Documented by,

Ace Antonio
Acting Municipal Clerk