



**Borough of Wallington
Mayor and Council Public Session Minutes
Thursday, December 7th, 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, December 7th, 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. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and concluded with the Invocation.

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

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. Unanimously approved by Voice Vote.

Ms. Linda Kuniez (108 Halstead Avenue) inquired about Permit Parking. Mayor Dabal clarified that Councilman Androwis is responsible for the committee and reiterated that the council unanimously designated Councilman Androwis the Chair for parking stickers several months back.

Part of that motion was for Ms. Kuniez to collaborate with Councilman Androwis on an analysis for the Borough. Ms. Kuniez immediately shifted to unrelated matters, prompting Mayor Dabal to inquire if she had any borough-related business. Ms. Kuniez denied having any, and Mayor Dabal wished her a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Dabal then asked if anyone else wanted to address the council. Hearing none, she requested a motion to close the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Dabal asked for a motion to approve Resolutions No. 2023-198 to No. 2023-207, excluding Resolution No. 2023-203. She sought input from David Sireci, CMFO, due to last-minute additions to Resolution No. 2023-203. Mr. Sireci explained that the state allows fund transfers between budget accounts from November 1st. Numerous changes were made to the original draft, with additional items added from the DPW and Construction Department before the Agenda was published. Mr. Sireci recommended removing Resolution 2023-203 from the agenda, and a new resolution would be created for the next meeting. This was done to make sure that any and all additions were included. With no questions or comments from the council, Resolution No. 2023-203 was pulled from the agenda.

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

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

1. Resolution No. 2023 – 198: Authorization For The Governing Body To Convene Into Executive Session
2. Resolution No. 2023 – 199: Authorization Payment of Bills and Supplemental List of Bills
3. Resolution No. 2023 – 200: Authorization Payment of Payment No. 11 – Wallington Veterans Memorial Library
4. Resolution No. 2023 – 201: Authorization Payment of Payment No. 12 – Wallington Veterans Memorial Library
5. Resolution No. 2023 – 202: Authorization to Issue a Refund to Keither Bokor
6. Resolution No. 2023 – 204: Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2023-170 Reimbursement to EMS Chief
7. Resolution No. 2023 – 205: Resolution Authorizing A Shared Services Agreement With The Borough Of Carlstadt For The Provision Of Street Sweeping Services



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8. **Resolution No. 2023 – 206:** Resolution Authorizing Payment No. 5 To Smith-Sondy Asphalt Construction For 2019MA Roadway Improvement Program (NJDOT & CDBG Funded) – Various Streets
9. **Resolution No. 2023 – 207:** Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 And Final For Additional Work Due To Site Conditions During Construction And Reduction In Quantities

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Wallington Board of Education – School District Tax Appropriation for 07/1/2023 – 12/31/2023
Jody Pietrowitz, Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Independence Day – Poland Flag Raising Invitation
Derek Sands, Chief of Staff – Office of the County Executive James J. Tedesco III

Invitation to the Town Tree Decorating Contest – 11/27/23 – 12/1/23.
Winter Wonderland Tree Lighting Ceremony – 12/2/23 6:00 PM
James J. Tedesco III, County Executive – Office of the County Executive

Independence Day – Albanian Flag Raising Invitation
Derek Sands, Chief of Staff – Office of the County Executive James J. Tedesco III

Winter Wonderland – Saturday, November 25th, 2023
Derek Sands, Chief of Staff – Office of the County Executive James J. Tedesco III

December 2023 Engineer's Report
David Juzmeski, P.E., P.P

Resignation Letter – Wallington School Crossing Guard Association
John A. Pinkus

November 2023 Wallington Emergency Squad Report
Monica Digiorgi, EMS BLS Lieutenant

Zoning Board Minutes, August 2023
Marta Goldyn, Zoning Board Secretary

Zoning Board Resolution 2023-09
Marta Goldyn, Zoning Board Secretary

ORDINANCES

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.

Mayor Dabal requested a motion to **OPEN** for public comment. Ms. Balik motioned to **OPEN** for public comment and seconded by Mr. Rachelski.

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



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Hearing no comments from the public, Mr. Rachelski motioned to **CLOSE** for public comment, seconded by Ms. Balik.
ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Androwis, Balik

Ms. Preinfalk motioned for final adoption, seconded by Mr. Rachelski. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.
ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Androwis, Balik

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 motioned; Ms. Balik seconded the motion.

Ms. Ivanicki questioned the current motion, asking if it was possible to remove the specific number of authorized lieutenants since the Emergency Squad doesn't always have three lieutenants, unlike the previous ordinance which doesn't specify the authorized officer count. Borough Attorney Allen explained that the council could amend the ordinance without requiring new publication because it doesn't significantly impact the ordinance. He clarified that "number of authorized" indicates the permissible number, not the actual number present. Ms. Ivanicki expressed satisfaction with the existing ordinance without any changes.

Mayor Dabal requested a motion to **OPEN** for public comment. Mr. Rachelski motioned to **OPEN** for public comment and seconded by Ms. Balik.

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

Hearing no comments from the public, Ms. Preinfalk motioned to **CLOSE** for public comment, seconded by Mr. Rachelski.

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

Mr. Rachelski motioned for final adoption, seconded by Ms. Ivanicki. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.
ROLL CALL: AYES: Rachelski, Ivanicki, Preinfalk, Androwis, Balik

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

No items for Non-Consent.

APPLICATIONS

No items for Applications.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Items for Discussion were moved to December 21st, 2023, Regular Public Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rachelski motioned to convene into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** as per **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-198** in accordance with Title 10 Chapter 4 through 12 Section B to discuss matters relating to collective bargaining agreements, litigation, and attorney client privilege. Seconded by Ms. Ivanicki. Unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

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

ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:43 P.M.

RETURNED INTO PUBLIC SESSION AT 7:27 P.M.



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OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Ivanicki wanted an update on the red lines in front of Firehouse 202, last discussed in May. Ms. Balik mentioned DPW is addressing it but needs clarity on penalties for parking on the red lines. Mayor Dabal clarified there shouldn't be different penalties; towing is the only exception for red lines.

Ms. Balik highlighted issues with people parking on yellow lines near intersections affecting alternate side parking. Ms. Balik emphasized the need to ticket illegally parked cars.

Ms. Preinfalk asked about the old library sign removal, and Ms. Balik reported it was taken down, but the wires were cut. Ms. Balik stated that Mr. Dynes will fix them for the new wooden sign.

Ms. Ivanicki inquired about cleaning near the Route 21 bridge sign. It was reported that DPW was supposed to clean it for the owner to remove the sign. Ms. Balik assured the task would be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rachelski asked the Borough Administrator and Borough Attorney to write a letter urging the Board of Education to address the issue of balls from the field landing on private property. Mayor Dabal mentioned discussing the matter with Dr. Lozanski, who spoke directly with residents. Mr. Rachelski emphasized the need for the Board of Education to allocate funds for posts and netting. Due to ongoing complaints and inaction, a formal letter is recommended. The Mayor and the Borough Administrator will collaborate on drafting the letter, and Mr. Rachelski suggested sending copies to affected residents along the street.

Ms. Preinfalk motioned to hire Magda Thompson as a clerk typist in response to the posted advertisement. Magda Thompson will be employed at \$32,000 annually, along with pension and benefits. Her core responsibility will include assisting the DPW but will also support the Building Department and Fire Prevention, and all other tasks directed by the Borough Administrator during the probationary period. Seconded by Ms. Ivanicki.

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

Mr. Androwis pointed out that he hadn't seen any resumes. Ms. Preinfalk remarked that this is not the way it works. Councilwoman Ivanicki stated that Mr. Androwis never requested resumes before. Ms. Preinfalk continued to explain that resumes are sent in to the Borough Administrator then it goes to the Personnel Committee for discussion and then a recommendation is made to the Governing Body.

Mayor Dabal warmly welcomed Borough Administrator Jennifer Appice, commending her for actively engaging with borough employees, participating in PBA meetings alongside Chief Kudlacik, and attending a crucial meeting for the police building project. As she settles into office routines, Ms. Appice has been diligently scheduling appointments, making her initial days in the office quite busy. The Mayor expressed happiness in having her on board and acknowledged her role as the Mayor of Rochelle Park.

Mr. Rachelski expressed his gratitude to Mayor Dabal for assuming the role of Interim Borough Administrator, acknowledging her hard work and dedication in managing all responsibilities. As a resident, he wanted to extend his sincere thanks for stepping in. In addition, Mr. Rachelski shared his appreciation for the fantastic Holiday Parade by our Fire Department, followed by the remarkable Winter Festival. As a resident, he wanted to express his gratitude for the outstanding events. Furthermore, Mr. Rachelski requested the Borough draft a letter to the Fire Department to convey appreciation and their unique efforts. He concluded by expressing his pride in being a proud "Wallingtonian."

Mayor Dabal called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-209, Bergen County Community Development Block



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Grant (CDBG) Application for Roadway Improvements to Reservoir Avenue Municipal Endorsing Resolution. Ms. Preinfalk motioned, which was seconded by Ms. Balik. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Dabal called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Preinfalk moved for the adjournment of the meeting, and her motion was seconded by Ms. Balik. The adjournment was unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ace Antonio
Acting Municipal Clerk