

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2021

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Brindle made the following announcements:

“The adequate notice of this meeting, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, was provided by the posting, mailing and filing of the annual notice of regularly scheduled meetings of the Town Council on December 11, 2020. The notice was, on that date, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, mailed to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, and THE STAR LEDGER, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Westfield.”

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brindle, Council Members, Habgood, Parmelee, LoGrippe, Katz, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, and Boyes

**ABSENT:** None

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held remotely through Zoom Webinar. The public was provided with access to join the webinar through Zoom.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### Town Administrator's Update

- Referred to the Conference Meeting held earlier this evening and discussion concerning phase 2 of Clara Christian's Girl Scout Gold Award Project, "Veronica's Garden". Explained that phase 1 involved new plantings on the upper plateau on the Mountain Avenue side of Mindowaskin Park, which inspired the clearing of the embankment to the lower level of the park, also known as Daffodil Bank. Mentioned that the Friends of Mindowaskin Park requested that this area be cleared, and that Daffodil Bank had been maintained by the Westfield Garden Club for many years. The Town would be partnering with the Westfield Garden Club and possibly the Friends of Mindowaskin to restore this area to its natural state. Thanked DPW for their efforts as well as the Friends of Mindowaskin Park and the Westfield Garden Club;
- Discussed the introduction of an ordinance to fix salary ranges for PBA employees. Explained that a voluntary settlement was reached between the Town and the PBA and thanked the PBA membership as well as their representatives, Paul Ferry and Jason Merrit for their efforts. Stated that negotiations were ongoing for approximately 18 months and believes a good agreement for both parties was reached. Also mentioned that all labor agreements are now settled through 2021 and beyond. A public hearing and adoption of the salary ordinance is scheduled for the next Town Council meeting, as well as a resolution authorizing salary increases and retroactive pay;
- Discussed the bond ordinance to authorize capital projects that is scheduled for public hearing and adoption this evening. Explained that, if adopted, funds would be available at the end of the month once the required estoppel period has passed. During that timeframe, the Engineering Department would be working on bid specifications for road paving as well as other capital projects. Discussed other work that has started in preparation of road paving to be conducted by utility companies, as well as the installation of federally required ADA compliant ramps. Mentioned that the ramps are being installed ahead of paving work in order to avoid opening roads after paving is complete. Announced that paving by Elizabethtown Gas could begin as soon as next week and reminded residents to register for Town updates in order to have access to the latest status of these projects. Stated that Elizabethtown Gas would be paving approximately 13 miles of roads this year, with the Town planning to pave approximately 5.5 miles. Thanked the Town Engineer for his efforts;
- Discussed a meeting that he attended with the Fire Chief, Councilwoman Mackey and Congressman Malinowski at fire headquarters. Explained that Congressman Malinowski is visiting towns throughout Union County to thank first responders for their service. Stated that the Town's entire fire platoon was in attendance, as well as representatives from the State FMBA. Feels it was a nice meeting and that he and Councilwoman Mackey also had an opportunity to discuss the process involved with the funds allocated to Westfield through the American Rescue Act with Congressman Malinowski.

Mayor's remarks

Mayor Brindle provided the following remarks:

Good evening, everyone, and thanks for joining us virtually tonight. Please remember that public comment will only be accepted via Zoom, although we are live streaming for viewing only on Facebook. The replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36.

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

■ Yesterday, Governor Murphy announced that all New Jerseyans age 16 and above will be eligible to be vaccinated beginning April 19. In addition, travel guidance was updated to reflect that fully vaccinated individuals and those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past three months who travel domestically aren't required to self-quarantine after their trip, or to get a COVID-19 test before or afterward. Unvaccinated individuals are still subject to post-travel quarantine guidance. For international travel, a negative test result or documentation of recovery is required for all travelers entering the United States following air travel. Details can be found on the [New Jersey COVID Information Hub](#).

■ The seven-day average for confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Jersey is down 2% from a week ago and up 32% from a month ago, and the rate of transmission is 1.06. On the vaccination front, New Jersey has administered nearly 4.8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine — with more than 1.8 million people considered fully vaccinated. As always, more detailed information about statewide numbers is available on the [NJ COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

**LOCAL UPDATES**

■ This week is National Public Health Week, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize the dedicated employees of the Westfield Regional Health Department, who have worked tirelessly over the past year in unprecedented circumstances to provide timely and critical information to the public during the pandemic. Led by Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone, the team has investigated over 8,000 cases of COVID-19 in the eight communities they serve -- including more than 2,000 in Westfield. They have also served a vital role in coordinating outreach efforts to vulnerable populations -- providing informational resources about the virus and vaccines, assisting with the recent pop-up vaccination clinic for the underserved, partnering with community organizations, and launching the new homebound vaccination program.

In addition, Megan was chosen to be interviewed for the New Jersey Oral History Museum about the local public health response to the pandemic, and what that response has meant to their personal lives. It's only fitting that her vast contributions will be part of a permanent record of this truly incredible time for generations to come. Thank you, Megan, and all of your incredibly dedicated team members for the work you have done and continue to do for the community.

■ I recently attended the first meeting of the State League of Municipalities Liquor License Task Force, to which I was appointed with six other members throughout New Jersey. I am thrilled to have a seat at the table on this vital issue to work with a bi-partisan group of legislators on reforming our archaic liquor license laws, which is critical to the long term vitality of downtowns all over the state. We are fortunate to have the support of Downtown NJ, which is led by our DWC Executive Director Bob Zuckerman, as we seek to find a solution that protects the investment of existing license holders while allowing New Jersey to compete for the best restaurant talent with neighboring states.

■ Earth Month is here, and the Green Team has been busy planning! The very successful Free Market returns on April 24, when gently used goods can be dropped off at the South Avenue lot of the train station, and residents can then pick them up for free. Residents are free to browse from 9:30- 3:00 without signing up, but drop off slots require [registration](#). On May 2, the Annual Spring Clean Up will take place at Tamaques and Brightwood Park from 10:00 - 12:00. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and religious organizations who need to fulfill community service requirements are welcome to [participate](#).

■ On April 26 at 1:00PM, Lifelong Westfield and the Westfield Police Department will present a webinar to help residents identify and avoid fraud and scams, many of which target senior citizens and are on the rise during the pandemic. To obtain the Zoom meeting information, attendees must register in advance by emailing [westfieldnj seniors@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldnj seniors@gmail.com) or calling 908-201-1287.

■ We have two Facebook Live discussions coming up! Join Chief Battiloro and me at noon this Thursday, April 8, to provide an update on the latest efforts of the Westfield Police Department - including the ongoing car burglaries/thefts, thoughtfully addressing teen gatherings in Mindowaskin, and downtown enforcement plans during outdoor dining -- as well as the outcome of the recent accreditation process. To submit a question to be addressed, please visit [westfieldnj.gov/fblive](http://westfieldnj.gov/fblive).

On Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00PM, join us for “More Than Just a Gazebo,” a discussion focused on the impact and importance of public spaces in civic life. I’ll be joined by a fabulous panel of experts, including Asima Jansveld, Westfield resident and Executive Director of The Highline Network; Don Sammet, Town Planner; Phil Abramson, Topology; Richard Heapes, Streetworks Development; and special guest Dan Biederman, Executive Director of Bryant Park and President of Biederman Redevelopment Ventures.

■ Work continues on setting up the expanded outdoor dining spaces throughout the downtown area, as well as on an enhanced pedestrian plaza on Quimby Street to deliver an attractive, cohesive, upscale destination for Downtown Westfield. This will include additional tents and decor, as well as a variety of programming and the return of Sweet Sounds! Please be sure to follow the DWC for more information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please remember that the 15-minute parking spots are available to facilitate pick up from our local businesses, and the Westfield Police Department will be actively enforcing any misuse of those spaces.

■ We have another productive agenda tonight. We will hear an ordinance on second reading for the adoption of the 2021 capital budget, which will address needs such as road paving, public safety equipment for our Fire, Police, and Public Works departments, and amenities for our parks.

Also on second reading is an ordinance requiring landscapers and tree companies to register each year with the Town, which allows us an opportunity to provide information about our rules and regulations that relate to the work that they perform.

As part of a broader effort to incorporate safe bicycling options in Town, we’ll vote to appoint members to the newly re-established Bicycle Advisory Board, and we’ll also vote on a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for funding through PSE&G’s Sustainable Jersey Grants Program to help us design an improved bike infrastructure.

With that, we’ll get to work. I want to remind everyone that I will once again be enforcing Robert’s Rules this evening to ensure we stay on topic and the meeting runs efficiently.

Thank you.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

On a motion by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilman Dardia, Council accepted the following appointments:

### **Bicycle Board**

<i>Lisa Braddock, Resident</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Angela Knowles, Resident</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Zachary Halevy, Resident</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Anthony Utitus, Resident</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Jenn Moshier, PTA member</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Julie Baumann, PTA member</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Zoë McKelvey, Green Team Liaison</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Scott Katz, Town Council Liaison</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>

Councilman Dardia discussed appointments to the Bicycle Board and stated that he is excited that this board is being reinstated. Explained that the Town would like to provide some infrastructure and planning for safe streets and sidewalks. Also discussed plans for this board to review the Town’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the Circulation Element of the Master Plan. In addition, discussed plans to review and implement best practices for bicycle safety. Thanked Councilman Boyes for his involvement in the applicant selection process and Councilman Katz for serving as council liaison. Also thanked the many applicants who expressed interest in serving and those who were appointed for volunteering their time.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Brindle presented the following proclamations:

# Town of Westfield

## Westfield, New Jersey

### PROCLAMATION

#### *Parkinson's Awareness Month*

#### *April 2021*

**WHEREAS**, Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative brain disorder in the United States with symptoms that vary person to person and may include tremors; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking; slowness of movement and rigidity; cognitive impairment and dementia; mood disorders; and a variety of other non-motor symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect approximately 1 million people in the United States alone and the prevalence will rise to 1.2 million by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, Parkinson's disease is the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown and there is no objective test or biomarker for the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no standard treatment for this disease – treatment for each person is based on his or her symptoms and may include medication, surgery, and lifestyle modifications such as more rest and exercise – but no treatment as yet will reverse the effects of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the total cost of Parkinson's disease to individuals, families, and the U.S. government totals nearly \$52 billion a year, which includes \$26.5 billion of non-medical costs like missed work, lost wages, early forced retirement, and family caregiver time, demonstrating the devastating effects the disease has on a person's finances and ability to participate in the labor market; and

**WHEREAS**, Parkinson's disease affects not only the Parkinson's patient, but the patient's loved ones and caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for persons living with Parkinson's disease and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, increased education and research are desperately needed to find more effective and lasting treatments and, ultimately, a cure for this debilitating disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, in recognition of the need to bring awareness to the plight of Parkinson's patients and their families, do hereby designate the month of April of 2021 as *Parkinson's Awareness Month* in the Town of Westfield.

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that I hereby encourage my fellow residents to visit the Parkinson's Disease Foundation website at <https://www.parkinson.org> and the Michael J. Fox Foundation at <https://www.michaeljfox.org> for more information about the disease and how you can help.

# Town of Westfield

## Westfield, New Jersey

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, COVID-19 was declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmaceutical researchers, governments, universities, and public health authorities joined forces and worked round-the-clock to develop a preventive vaccine against the virus that causes COVID-19, and on December 11, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued its first Emergency Use Authorization for a Covid-19 vaccine; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2020, the N.J. Department of Health implemented its comprehensive Vaccine Education and Prioritization Plan to manage the distribution and administration of available doses, and effective January 14, 2021, persons aged 65 and older became eligible to receive the vaccine; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to receive the vaccine, appointments at designated vaccination sites are required; and

**WHEREAS**, due to high demand, appointments filled up seemingly instantly and it became apparent that senior citizens who may not have the technology or comfort level needed to navigate various websites in search of an available appointment may be at a disadvantage; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2021, upon realizing how difficult it could be for some senior citizens to book their own appointments, Westfield High School junior Taylor Addis, her aunt, Mountainside resident Michelle Cisneros, and Seton Hall freshman Diana Rios, founded Gen2Gen Helpers in an effort to help secure vaccine appointments for seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, with a pool of Taylor's high school classmates and childhood friends making up the initial group of volunteers, the Gen2Gen founders began their efforts by creating an easy to follow Google form and publishing it on a popular Westfield moms group Facebook page; and

**WHEREAS**, after various media outlets reported on the Helpers' compassionate endeavor, the requests for assistance from seniors and the number of volunteers stepping up to help increased exponentially; and

**WHEREAS**, Gen2Gen organized its efforts by utilizing "administrators" to assign appointment requests, train new volunteers, coordinate transportation requests, and ensure notifications were received; and when demand intensified, Gen2Gen expanded the number of administrators to include experienced volunteers, Westfield High School teacher Jessica Norworth and Mountainside resident Debbie Hoffman; and

**WHEREAS**, working closely with local community organizations, the Westfield Regional Health Department, and various Union County senior groups, Gen2Gen Helpers has, to date, successfully booked over 2,000 appointments for senior citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the founders and all of the volunteers associated with Gen2Gen Helpers are deserving of our recognition and appreciation for their compassionate and successful endeavor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that I, Michelle W. Brindle, Mayor of the Town of Westfield, on behalf of our beloved senior citizens and their families and friends, do hereby extend a heartfelt thank you to the founders of Gen2Gen Helpers – Taylor Addis, Michelle Cisneros, and Diana Rios – and all the Gen2Gen volunteers who have worked tirelessly to book over 2,000 appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Mayor Brindle acknowledged the efforts of those involved with Gen2Gen, as well as Chief Battiloro for the Police Department's assistance in providing transportation for vaccination appointments. Also acknowledged the efforts of Dr. Pamela Brug of the NJ Black Women's Physician's Association, the Westfield Community Center and the Westfield Neighborhood Council.

Taylor Addis discussed her involvement with Gen2Gen and stated that it was a very rewarding experience. Also explained how the idea behind Gen2Gen was formed and stated that it occurred when she learned of elderly family members having difficulty navigating the internet to secure vaccination appointments. In addition, discussed how volunteers were able to find available vaccination appointments through various social media sites.

Debbie Hoffman discussed the role of the Gen2Gen administrators.

Mayor Brindle feels these types of stories represent the best of the community, especially during this terrible time. Also feels the efforts of high school students are particularly inspiring.

Green Team Update

Councilman Contract discussed grant funding awarded to the Town last year for window replacement in the Municipal Building.

Peter Goldberg of the Westfield Green Team provided an update of the window replacement project in the Administrator's Conference Room and Mayor's Conference Room in the Municipal Building to Low-E (low emissivity) storm windows. Explained that the Administrator's Conference Room is known for being too cold in the winter and too warm in the summer, which is a result of the single pain windows in that room. These windows also cause the furnace and air conditioning unit to work harder and wastes energy. For this reason, the Green Team submitted a grant application through the Sustainable Jersey Grant Program for funding to replace these windows with Low-E storm windows, which are more energy efficient and contain a coating that allows natural light to enter while blocking UV rays and radiant heat. Discussed the amount of funding used to purchase these windows which were installed in both the Administrator's Conference Room and Mayor's Conference Room. Explained that Low-E windows are much less costly than a full window replacement. In addition, the construction is much less disruptive to operations and the aesthetics of historic buildings. Also discussed the energy savings expected with Low-E windows and encouraged installation in other Town buildings.

The Town Administrator thanked Mr. Goldberg for his involvement and for the contacts he provided as the Town went through the process. Stated that there was no disruption with installation and he and his assistant have already felt a difference in the Administrator's Conference Room.

Councilman Contract thanked Mr. Goldberg and Green Team members involved with the grant application. Encouraged residents who are interested in these windows or other ways to improve energy efficiency in their home to visit the Town's website for information on the Home Energy Savings Program that is available.

**ADVERTISED HEARINGS****GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2210**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

**SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2221**

**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,650,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2211**

**AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2212****AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF LANDSCAPERS WITHIN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AND MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION CENTER REGULATIONS**

Advertised returnable this evening.

Rob Dalgliesh, 825 Prospect Street, requested clarification of General Ordinance No. 2212. Feels it restricts who residents could hire as a landscaper. Requested information as to the goal of the ordinance, the criteria for obtaining a license, and whether a license application could be denied.

The Town Administrator explained that the ordinance would require registration with the Town for the purpose of creating a list of those working in Westfield, and to provide the Town with the ability to contact landscapers annually to inform them of certain rules and regulations. There is no incentive to deny a license to a landscaper.

Mr. Dalgliesh presented a hypothetical question and asked if he would be allowed to hire a person to mow his lawn who is not a commercial landscaper and who is not a Westfield resident under this proposed ordinance.

The Town Attorney explained that there are certain exemptions to the registration requirements, such as teenagers who mow lawns to earn extra money. The ordinance generally requires those with a commercial license plate to register with the Town.

Mr. Dalgliesh requested information as to the criteria for denying a license.

The Town Attorney discussed the application process and explained that if all pertinent information is provided and the required fee is paid, the license would likely be granted, but feels it is difficult to answer Mr. Dalgliesh's question since it is hypothetical.

Mr. Dalgliesh stated that he is unclear as to what could cause the denial of a license. Explained that he does not want to be forced into using a commercial landscaper as a result of this ordinance.

The Town Attorney explained that the ordinance is not intended to be onerous but to provide the Town with the ability to contact commercial landscapers doing business in Westfield. The main reason for needing to contact landscapers is due to past incidents of violations to the Town's regulations with respect to debris being left in the street.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

An ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2210 AN ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)" by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilman Boyes, was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippo		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

An ordinance entitled, "SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2221 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF

WESTFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,650,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS” by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilman Dardia, was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippto		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

An ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2211 AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD” by Councilman Parmelee, seconded by Councilwoman Mackey, was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippto		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

Town Council comments:

Councilman Parmelee discussed the intent of General Ordinance No. 2211 and explained that it involves rescinding provisions of the Town Code that made it possible for those with overdue library materials to be subject to a municipal offense. Explained that in 2019, the American Library Association (ALA) adopted a resolution requesting that libraries nationwide eliminate overdue fines because it was found that those fines were a source of social inequity, and that those with limited income tended to not utilize public libraries. Further explained that libraries across the country analyzed the effects of late fees and found that they disproportionately deter low-income users, which is the group of people that stand to benefit the most from free library resources. As a result of ALA’s resolution, the Westfield Library Board of Trustees considered the facts and alternatives and made the decision to follow the ALA’s guidance and eliminated fines for overdue materials. In light of that decision, it was decided that the provisions of the Town Code that made it a municipal offense to have overdue library materials should also be eliminated, as this provision seemed to be too punitive, and was never enforced.

Councilman LoGrippto requested clarification as to the incentive for residents to return overdue materials if there is no fine.

Councilman Parmelee explained that this is the responsibility of the Library Board of Trustees and believes a third-party vendor was retained to help with the return of library materials. The idea is to encourage more people to use the library.

An ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2212 - AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF LANDSCAPERS WITHIN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AND MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE



CONSERVATION CENTER REGULATIONS” by Councilman Parmelee, seconded by Councilwoman Habgood was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippto		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

Town Council comments:

Councilman Parmelee provided some context to General Ordinance NO. 2212, which he feels might be necessary due to recent news articles that have inflated the intended purpose of the ordinance. Explained that this proposed ordinance was recommended by the Code Review and Town Property Committee after several discussions, and the purpose is simply to provide the Town with contact information for landscapers, including tree removal businesses, that are doing business in Westfield. Registration enables the Town to provide these businesses with relevant rules and regulations so that landscapers understand the “do’s and don’ts” of operating in Westfield, and also allows the Town to more effectively enforce its rules when it comes to not only storm debris, but to inform landscapers of other regulations, such as invasive plants that are prohibited. Further, this ordinance would allow the Town to more timely and effectively address concerns residents might have with specific landscaping businesses and allows the Town to update landscapers as to changes in rules and regulations that occur from time to time. Also discussed the registration fee that is required and explained that this fee is waived for any landscaper that is registered to use the Westfield Conservation Center. In addition, as mentioned by the Town Attorney, registration is not required for any non-commercial resident, which he refers to as “the kid with the lawnmower” exemption. With respect to leaf blowers, explained that this ordinance contains no regulations for the use of leaf blowers, but the Town does recognize that there is a quality of life issue associated with them, and the Code Review and Town Property Committee, the Public Works Committee and the Town continue to monitor it. Discussed an ordinance adopted in 2020 which restricts the hours for the use of this equipment as an example and stated that additional restrictions are being considered. Discussed an ordinance being contemplated by the City of Summit which would restrict the use of leaf blowers during certain summer months. Also discussed community comments concerning this ordinance that Councilman LoGrippto forwarded to him. Before any steps are taken in that direction, an appropriate balance is needed amongst all stakeholders because it would impact not only landscapers, but many residents who maintain their own lawns. Councilman Parmelee also addressed the question posed by Mr. Dalglish and explained that if that person operates a business, then he would be required to register, but it is simply a registration process. Lastly, if and when the Town implements additional measures or restrictions concerning gas-powered leaf blowers, this registration ordinance would allow the Town to properly inform the majority of landscapers operating in Westfield of these restrictions, and to reasonably enforce them.

**BIDS**

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilman LoGrippto and seconded by Councilwoman Habgood, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Executive Meeting held March 9, 2021 and Town Council Regular and Conference Meeting held March 23, 2021.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**OPEN DISCUSSION BY CITIZENS**

Mayor Brindle opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Michelle Habayeb, 507 Wychwood Road, Westfield Memorial Library Board of Trustees President, discussed General Ordinance No. 2211 which rescinds portions of the Town Code related to overdue library materials. Responded to Councilman LoGrippe's question concerning actions that would be taken to ensure library materials are recovered. Stated that the Library Board of Trustees voted at its last meeting to eliminate fines for overdue materials. Mentioned that there were several discussions of this matter over the course of the past year. Explained that eliminating the fines for overdue material does not mean it will be a "free for all", as there are policies and procedures in place to ensure that items are returned. Although fines will not be charged in most cases, those who have not returned materials would not be permitted to check out additional items and they would be charged for any item that is not returned. In addition, fines remain for certain items, such as new books. Discussed the fact that the library is governed by a separate board of trustees and monthly meetings are held. Welcomed residents to attend those meetings and present any questions they might have.

Bill Conroy, 19 Manchester Drive, referred to the ordinance that would require registration of landscapers and feels some landscapers are exceeding noise limits. Asked how these types of violations are enforced and how citizens should report it. Explained that, with the use of an app, he was able to measure decibel levels and determined that permitted noise levels were being exceeded.

Greg Kasko, 434 Everson Place, thanked Councilman LoGrippe and Councilman Contract for responding to an issue he had with construction in his neighborhood.

Mr. Kasko also discussed the municipal budget process and feels that following this process provides residents with insight as to how tax dollars are used. Encouraged residents to review the budget on the Town's website. Also discussed a recent letter by a former councilmember on the Westfield Republican Committee's Facebook page concerning the budget. Stated that he perceived it as an attack on the current administration's budget process. Feels not overtaxing residents is the best way to spend tax dollars. Referred to comments in the letter and feels they apply to the administration this former councilmember served under, not the current administration. Also feels there would be a great deal of misinformation circulated as the Town enters the campaign season. Discussed criticisms of road paving as an example and referenced policies that have been put into place by the current administration to ensure that utility companies and others repair roads after work is conducted. Also stated that many more roads have been paved under the current administration. Feels letters to the editor and/or posts on social media are political opinions and encouraged residents to research issues. Referred to the 2021 Municipal Budget presentation and feels the Town is in a good position financially and he is satisfied with how his tax dollars are being used. Thanked the Town Council for its stewardship.

Brad Chananie, 239 Avon Road, Cochair of Lifelong Westfield referred to Mr. Kasko's comments and agrees with his assessment of the current administration's handling of the budget and other Town issues.

Mr. Chananie also thanked those involved with Gen2Gen for their efforts. Feels they have done a "Herculean" job working with Lifelong Westfield to get senior citizens vaccination appointments. Also thanked the Police Chief and the Police Department for transporting those in need to vaccination appointments. Lastly, thanked the Health Department for their efforts.

Councilman Contract asked Mr. Chananie to discuss the webinar scheduled for tomorrow regarding aging in place.

Mr. Chananie stated that the webinar is scheduled for April 7, 2021 at 11:00 AM and provided information for those interested in registering. Also mentioned that another webinar on scams, which would be led by the Police Chief, is scheduled for the end of the month. Stated that this would be the second webinar on the topic of scams because the rate of incidences has increased over the past months.

Mayor Brindle thanked Mr. Chananie and Deirdre Gelinne for their efforts with Lifelong Westfield and stated that they were instrumental in the Gen2Gen initiative.

Mayor Brindle also thanked Mr. Kasko for his comments.

The Town Attorney addressed Mr. Conroy's question concerning noise issues and explained that, in addition to various state statutes, there are several sections of the Town Code that pertain to noise violations. Stated that the Police Department would enforce many of those violations but suggested that Mr. Conroy contact the Town's main phone number to report a noise complaint so that it could be directed to the appropriate department for enforcement.

The Town Administrator feels it is important to note that the type of complaint does determine who would be responsible for enforcement. Also feels it is important for residents to report these issues to the Town so that data could be compiled.

Councilwoman Habgood referenced Mr. Kasko's comments and informed residents that all information pertaining to the budget is available on the Town's website, including the presentation from the last Town Council meeting. Announced that adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget is scheduled for April 20 and provided contact information for those with questions concerning the budget.

### **BILLS AND CLAIMS**

On motion by Councilwoman Habgood, and seconded by Councilman Parmelee, bills and claims were adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$371,882.65 per the list submitted to the members of this Council by the Chief Financial Officer, and approved for payment by the Town Administrator be, and the same are hereby, approved and that payroll warrants previously issued by the Chief Financial Officer be ratified.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

#### Finance Policy Committee

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood and seconded by Councilman LoGrippe, were unanimously adopted.

#### **Resolution No. 84**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$151.80 to the order of New Jersey Department of Health, P.O. Box 369, Trenton, New Jersey for Dog Licenses issued by the Town Clerk for the month of March 2021.

#### **Resolution No. 85**

RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer be and hereby is, authorized to draw warrant for unused parking permit fee as follows:

Annmarie Adamo 908 Bailey Court Westfield, NJ 07090	South Side RR Stn/Lot 3	#21030104	\$580.00
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#### **Resolution No. 86**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be, and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the following persons, these amounts being overpaid for 2021:

Block/Lot/Qualifier Name	Property Address	Quarter/Year Amount
907/20	914 North Avenue West	1 <sup>st</sup> /2021
Core Logic Refund Dept. 3001 Hackberry Rd Irving, TX 75063		\$2,976.66
5006/10 GLASSMAN, Matthew	7 Manchester Drive	1 <sup>st</sup> /2021 \$5,072.38

#### **Resolution No. 87**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in any county or municipality by application and resolution, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council of Westfield, County of Union to establish such a fund for the Fire Department in the amount of \$100.00; and

WHEREAS, the custodian for this fund is Anthony Tiller, who is bonded for the amount of \$1,000,000; such custodian shall maintain records for this fund in a manner conducive to proper accounting and auditing procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that Council of the Town of Westfield hereby authorizes such action and that two copies of this resolution be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approval.

**Resolution No. 88**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for funding through the 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by PSE&G; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield wishes to submit an application for \$20,000 in funding through this grant program for bicycle infrastructure design.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of a grant application for \$20,000 in funding for the aforementioned project through PSE&G's 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program.

**Resolution No. 89**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for funding through the 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by PSE&G; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield wishes to submit an application for \$2,000 in funding through this grant program for a reusable food container program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of a grant application for

\$2,000 in funding for the aforementioned project through PSE&G's 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program.

**Resolution No. 90**

WHEREAS, the position of Electrical Subcode Official has become available within the Town of Westfield: and

WHEREAS, Frank Vuoso, Construction Official has recommended that Joseph Egidio be appointed as Electrical Subcode Official and Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Egidio possesses the necessary licenses (#008785) to serve as Electrical Subcode Official and Inspector; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Council hereby concurs with the recommendation of the Construction Official and be and hereby approves the appointment of Joseph Egidio as Electrical Sub Code Official effective retroactive to March 29, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Regulatory Affairs.

**General Ordinance No. 2213**

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Habgood made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2213 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2043 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AND VARIOUS AMENDMENTS THERETO."

The motion was seconded by Councilman Dardia

General Ordinance No. 2213 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippe		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2213 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 20th day of April 2021 at 8:00 o'clock, p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached, in the Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and that at such time and place or any time and place to which such meeting shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, and that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

**Comments:**

The Town Administrator thanked the PBA for its cooperation as well as the Police Chief for his involvement.

Mayor Brindle thanked the Town Administrator for his efforts in achieving a settlement. Feels under the Police Chief's leadership, Westfield has one of the premier Police Departments in the State. Also feels the professionalism demonstrated by the PBA and the leadership with the recent accreditation are examples of that. Stated that she looks forward to a continued partnership with the PBA.

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking CommitteeCode Review & Town Property CommitteePublic Works Committee

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilman Contract and seconded by Councilman LoGrippe, were unanimously adopted.

**Resolution No. 91**

WHEREAS, the Town performed an environmental remediation of Municipal Parking Lot #8, now designated as Lot #1, and,

WHEREAS, as part of this remediation, monitoring wells were installed at the site to sample and evaluate groundwater in the vicinity of the clean-up, and

WHEREAS, Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin, Inc. (formerly Brinkerhoff Environmental Services, Inc.), a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) as identified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, was contracted to conduct additional groundwater sampling to evaluate contaminant levels in order to comply with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regulations, and

WHEREAS, based on these initial results it is the opinion of Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin that further groundwater sampling/monitoring is needed in order to develop and prepare a final Remedial Investigation/Remedial Action plan that will comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and

WHEREAS, a proposal was received from Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin to perform the necessary groundwater evaluation and develop the required NJDEP report, and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has reviewed the Proposal and recommends that a professional services contract for the aforementioned services as outlined in the Proposal dated March 12, 2021, be awarded to Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin., 1805 Atlantic Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736, and

WHEREAS, Certificate of the Town Treasurer, certifying to the availability of adequate funds for this contract, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30 1.10 has been furnished to the Town Clerk. Expenditure of funds to be charged to Accounts Payable 1-01-55-900-211, under Purchase Order PO#21-00946.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield that the aforementioned contract for professional engineering services be awarded to Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin, Inc., 1805 Atlantic Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736, in an amount not to exceed \$11,000.00.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**Earth Day

Councilman Contract discussed upcoming Earth Day events as follows:

- A marker, crayon and pen recycling program would be conducted from April 6 to April 24 in conjunction with the schools;
- A Green Olympiad is scheduled for children from Pre-K to eighth grade to encourage them to live a more sustainable life;
- A plant sale is scheduled to begin on April 6;
- On Earth Day, April 22, the planting of a ceremonial tree, in conjunction with the Tree Preservation Commission, is scheduled to occur in front of Westfield Memorial Pool. Thanked Harmony Design and Tree Preservation Commission chairperson Marc Nissim for the donation of the tree;
- On April 24, the third annual Free Market would be held, as well as the Earth Day Fair, in which several vendors would be providing information on how to live more sustainably. Mentioned that the Town's new EV car dealer would be in attendance and would be bringing one of their vehicles; and
- Cleanup of Tamaques and Brightwood Parks would be held on May 2.

Downtown Westfield

Councilwoman Mackey discussed efforts between the Downtown Westfield Corporation and Streetworks and announced that the Biederman Group has been retained to enhance the pedestrian plaza at Quimby Street, with funding provided through a Main Street grant award. Discussed Mr. Biederman's involvement in the renaissance of Bryant Park in New York City and feels the Town is fortunate to have his group's expertise. Informed residents that some parking spaces would be impacted and reminded all that 15- minute parking is to ensure quick turnover for restaurants and merchants and that the Police Department would be enforcing any violation to 15-minute parking. Stated that she is looking forward to upcoming Downtown events.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilman LoGrippe and seconded by Councilman Boyes at 9:27 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk