MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 22, 2022

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, March 22, 2022 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 8, 2021. 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, LoGrippo, Katz, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, and Boyes

ABSENT: Councilman Parmelee

Invocation was given by Councilman Contract.

Salute to the flag.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor’s remarks
Good evening, everyone, and thanks to all who are joining us both here in the Council Chambers and online tonight. As a reminder, public comment will be accepted in person only, and we are live streaming for viewing only via Facebook. As always, the replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36.

UKRAINE
Thank you to the many residents who continue to make donations and organize the mobilization of these supplies to Ukraine. As a reminder, we are continuing to accept donations of first aid supplies, toiletries, tools, clothing, and paper products in the Westfield Police Department, which will be collected by the County as part of their larger effort to ship and distribute these items to the many Ukrainians in need.

WHIS STATE CHAMPIONS
It has been a very exciting few weeks for Westfield High School athletics and Blue Devils pride. Big congratulations go out to the Westfield High School Girls Basketball, Boys Winter Track, and Girls Swimming teams for bringing home the state trophy! We are in the process of organizing a date to honor these amazing student athletes at an upcoming Town Council meeting, and we look forward to having them here to recognize their tremendous achievements.

WALK THE CHALK
A big thanks to the Human Relations Advisory Commission (HRAC) for organizing the Walk the Chalk event at Jefferson School last week. Students, faculty, and parents chalked messages of kindness on the same place where racist graffiti was recently discovered. Thanks to everyone who participated, including Jefferson School PTO principal Dr. Hung, HRAC Chair Gary Mandelblatt, HRAC liaison Councilman Scott Katz, Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Chief Battiloro, and Rabbi Ethan Prosnit from Temple Emanu-El. I was happy to see so many residents join us to reaffirm that hate has no home in Westfield.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
I also want to thank the Knollwood Terrace neighbors who joined Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, myself, and various Town officials last week to tour the Robinson’s Branch creek with members of the Army Corps of Engineers and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Robinson’s Branch and other flood prone areas of town, which are all part of the Rahway River watershed, will now be included in a larger study of the entire region by the Corps to identify flood mitigation solutions. I hope everyone can appreciate what a big deal it is to have these agencies focused on Westfield.
In the meantime, they committed to helping us identify short and mid-term flood mitigation measures with recommendations to ultimately be made by the Westfield Infrastructure Resiliency Committee (WIRC).

While there is no easy and quick solution to solving our flooding issues, it was a great first meeting and a giant first step. You’ll hear more about our longer term fiscal priority to address our stormwater infrastructure in tonight’s budget presentation.

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
Speaking of the budget, I want to thank Town Administrator Jim Gildea and CFO Scott Olsen, who worked diligently over the last few months with each Town department to minimize our costs as much as possible without sacrificing services to residents.

I’d also like to thank the Finance Policy Committee – led by Councilwoman Linda Habgood, and joined by Vice Chair Councilman Mark Parmelee, Councilman David Contract, and Councilman Scott Katz – for their many hours of work to produce a budget that reflects the residual challenges presented by the pandemic and the many exciting opportunities for 2022 and beyond. As you’ll hear about in more detail in tonight’s presentation, despite the ongoing fiscal uncertainties driven by COVID, the Town performed well in 2021, in large part due to reserves, healthy tax collections, and necessary budget reductions made in 2020 to position the Town for success in 2021 and beyond. Importantly, in this challenging environment, we generated $3.6MM in surplus ($1MM more than we generated the previous year) to end 2021 with a $9.4MM surplus balance.

We’re also introducing the capital budget tonight, including the next phase of our unprecedented, multi-year road paving program and an emphasis on drainage improvement projects. Jim and Councilwoman Habgood will be sharing all of the exciting details.

INTRODUCING MAIZE COCKTAILS AND COCINA
Before I hand it over to Councilwoman Habgood to discuss the Finance Policy Committee items, I’d first like to make an exciting announcement about a resolution from that committee to authorize an award of contract to Maize Cocktails and Cocina, a globally inspired Mexican restaurant and cocktail bar to operate at the North Avenue train station building. After a public RFP issuance, we have chosen Maize, run by Chef Jesa Henneberry and experienced restaurateur Kamal Arora of Arora Hospitality Group.

With its globally inspired cocktails and cuisine, casual and lively atmosphere, and thoughtful restoration of a historic building, Maize will play an important role in the revitalization of our downtown, driving additional foot traffic that will benefit all of our local establishments. We are thrilled to partner with Jesa and Kamal, who see the value of a long-term investment in Downtown Westfield.

From family dinners, to watching a game, or to simply grabbing an after-work drink for commuters, Maize will serve as a local community gathering spot and will feature as its centerpiece a square cocktail bar with vaulted ceilings and seating for 25, as well as indoor and outdoor dining and patio seating. With plans to provide live music and entertainment, Maize will anchor the transformation of the North Avenue train station parking lot into a permanent pedestrian plaza.

Maize will be able to apply for a New Jersey Concessionaire’s Liquor License since the property is owned by the Town, allowing them to offer a full bar on the premises with plans to feature a wide range of signature cocktails, tequila mezcals, and Mexican spirits. We plan to issue a detailed announcement following the adoption of the resolution tonight, where you can see a rendering of the building and get more details about this very exciting addition to our downtown.

FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS
(Remarks by Councilwoman Habgood, Finance Policy Committee Chair)
This is a busy meeting with respect to the Finance Policy Committee, with many annual ministerial actions on the agenda. To provide some context, I’d like to touch upon some of the more notable items.

- Municipal Budget Introduction
As the Mayor mentioned, we will vote on a resolution to introduce and approve the 2022 Municipal Budget. This provides us with an important public forum to discuss the Town’s
financial health and priorities, and to address questions from our residents about how we are putting your tax dollars to work through responsible fiscal management, investment spending, and strategically utilizing our regenerating surplus.

As you’ll see in our presentation, the Town is in excellent financial condition, thanks to the ongoing diligence of our Town professionals and the foundation we’ve laid in the previous years’ budgeting strategy. We are very fortunate to have weathered the past two years with regeneration of our surplus under very trying financial conditions, and I look forward to sharing the details of our 2021 performance and 2022 plans later in the meeting. I want to remind residents who aren’t able to be here for in-person comments on the budget that they can email their questions to budget@westfieldnj.gov after the meeting, in anticipation of the public hearing and budget adoption at our April 26 meeting.

- Capital Budget Introduction
Tonight, we’ll also introduce our $3.2MM 2022 Capital Budget, which is part of our six-year Capital Plan for infrastructure improvements. The appropriations in 2022, to be funded by the issuance of bonds proposed in the introduction of tonight’s ordinance, will support road paving and drainage upgrades, DEP approved stream cleanings in Mindowaskin and Fairview, public safety items for the Fire and Police Departments, Town building enhancements, park improvements, DPW equipment, and the design phase for sanitary sewer pump stations. We’ll also vote on a resolution to adopt a temporary capital budget, which is required as we are introducing our capital budget ordinance prior to the municipal budget being adopted.

- Resolutions
I also want to point out the resolution to defer local school tax, which is done annually in connection with the municipal budget, as the Town is the collector of taxes and the school and Town are on different fiscal years.

There is also a resolution to introduce and approve the 2022 Special Improvement District budget, which was approved by the SID/DWC Board of Directors and requires the same budget approval process as our municipal budget.

On a separate note, we’ll be voting on a resolution to urge the swift passage of S-330, a legislative bill that is currently in the State Senate to restore State Aid (in our case, Energy Tax Receipts) to municipalities. If this bill is to pass in its current form, it would produce significant additional revenue over the next five years for the Town. A copy of this resolution will be forwarded to our representatives in the State Assembly and State Senate, as well as to Governor Murphy’s office and the League of Municipalities.

CODE REVIEW & TOWN PROPERTY COMMITTEE ITEMS (Remarks by Councilwoman Mackey, Code Review & Town Property Committee Vice Chair)
Tonight we’re introducing an ordinance authorizing the consumption of alcoholic beverages outdoors in certain parts of our downtown, which stems from a recent State law adoption that allows municipalities to designate outdoor areas for this purpose. The open container areas established in this ordinance are the result of consultation with the Downtown Westfield Corporation, Town Clerk’s office, Police Chief, and the Code Review & Town Property Committee members, and include the sidewalks, parklets, and streets when they are closed to vehicular traffic for events on Quimby Street, East Broad from Prospect to Elm, and Elm Street from North Avenue to East Broad. Foundation Park and the area of Central Avenue near Quimby are also included when the Town or the DWC is sponsoring an event for the public in those areas, such as the annual Sweet Sounds Festival.

This legislation would allow residents and visitors to open and consume packaged alcoholic beverages in these areas, which have long been hubs of entertainment and activity, with additional foot traffic driven by the implementation of Open Quimby over the past two years. Adopting an open container law here will help further assist local businesses, and is consistent with the intent of the new legislation allowing consumers to purchase alcohol for individual consumption.

As you can see, we have many exciting developments materializing as we continue our long-term planning in our areas of priority to position us well for the future. We have a lot to cover tonight — with that, let’s get to work.

Thank you.
2022 Budget Presentation

Westfield Budget Team
- Town Administrator - Jim Gildea (19-year veteran with Westfield, with 21 years experience in forming municipal budgets)
- Chief Financial Officer - Scott O'Brien (16-year veteran with 20 years experience in forming municipal budgets and 6 years with Westfield)
- Highly experienced auditing and bond counsel firms
  - Sapko Company & Company and Notre McCarthys
  - Finance Chair Councilwoman – Linda Habgood
  - Finance Vice Chairman Councilman – Mark Parmele
  - Finance Committee Member Councilman – David Contract
  - Finance Committee member Councilman – Scott Katz
- Investment Advisory Council comprised of 10 resident volunteers with various financial and logistics backgrounds

BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Long Term Credit Plan
- A 5-year capital plan to support infrastructure improvements
- Focus on 3-year plan to specifically address parking and drainage projects
- Introduce capital ordinances March 22

Department Budgets
- Dept. heads prepare & submit budget for review in Nov-Dec
- Close out previous year in Jan & meet with financial experts

Finance Committee Reviews
- January 27: Public meeting
- Apr 29: April 185, meeting with all Dept. heads and auditors
- Confirm & incorporate State Aid/compensation plan
- Prepare state budget documents

Council Review & Public Presentation
- March 22: Public budget introduction
- Post budget documents on website
- Apr 30: Public budget hearing and adoption

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?
2021 Total Tax Collections = $180,172,598
Town retains 16.32% of total collections

Municipal Tax Levy
- $5,105,000

Union County Tax Levy
- $20,100

State Aid
- 21.50%

Total Tax Levy
- $180,172,598

$20,100

$5,105,000

$175,067,498

21.50%

16.32%
Despite COVID Related Revenue Challenges, Surplus Was Replenished

- Generated $3.6MM in surplus in 2021, despite revenue losses, resulting in a $9.4 million surplus balance available in 2022
- Surplus generation increased by $1MM as compared to 2020
- Parking and court revenues were most negatively impacted by COVID 19 with continued shortfalls anticipated in 2022
- Municipal finance requirements do not allow for anticipating more revenue than what was collected in prior year, limiting anticipated revenues in 2022

2022 Budget Priorities

1. Manage Spending Challenges
   - Statutory Required Revenues of 5.12% (+$600K) health insurance, pensions, social security, utilities, Bolling V alley Sewage Authority
   - Salary/Wages up 2.49% (+$430K) contractual & nonunion increases and addition of new employees
   - Operating expenditures up 9.59% (+$498K) various non-discretionary costs in various departments

2. Conserve Surplus
   - Surplus level had been replenished by $3.6MM to $9.4 million at 12/21
   - 2022 budget utilized $3.8MM for management revenue losses and lower tax rate. This represents no increase from 2021.
   - $3.4 million surplus balance left to absorb continued marketplace disruptions and good to replenish to $13MM+

3. Lowest Possible Tax Increase
   - Total property value up 3.0% due to larger increase in non-discretionary costs and addition of American Rescue Plan (ARP) matching funding
   - Continued revenue losses compared to 2019 levels, but addition of ARP funds, increased building permit, and conservation center fees bolster revenues in 2022
   - Delivered 3.0% increase in tax rate. Average tax rate increase since 2018 is 1.3%

We Remain In Stronger Position Than During Financial Crisis (Surplus Being Used As Intended Rainy Day Fund)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
<th>% Used</th>
<th>Surplus Generated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$2,948,425</td>
<td>94.79%</td>
<td>$1,907,122</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$2,055,345</td>
<td>98.51%</td>
<td>$1,627,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,943,103</td>
<td>93.27%</td>
<td>$74,391</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$191,494</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>$1,431,303</td>
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</table>

Surplus use during recession impact years: 2009-2012

Surplus use during recent years leading up to COVID impact in 2020: 2021 & 2022
2022 REVENUE BRIGHT SPOTS

- Conservation Center: high usage, increased permit sales for organic debris disposal, recycling use, bulky waste program, sale of mulch and firewood, etc.
- Construction Dept: high volume of permits in 2020/2021; 2022 expected to be strong again with new online inspection requests and permit payments.
- Tax collection: expected to remain above 99% despite pandemic impacts in 2020/21.
- ARP funds in 2022, 2023, & 2024 will offset revenue losses and fund needed infrastructure expenses.
- Memorial Pool Utility had strong comeback from the 2020/21 pandemic effects. ARP funds in 2022 budget will solidify pool utility future.

Court and Parking Revenues Are Down 44% Compared To 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 Realized</th>
<th>2020 Realized</th>
<th>2021 Anticipated</th>
<th>2021 Realized</th>
<th>Var vs. 19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>$ 652,439</td>
<td>$ 224,261</td>
<td>$ 200,000</td>
<td>$ 280,663</td>
<td>($23,792)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>$1,699,561</td>
<td>$1,166,427</td>
<td>$1,155,000</td>
<td>$1,185,458</td>
<td>($30,458)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Used To Offset Some Revenue Losses & Fund COVID Recovery/Infrastructure Items

The 2022 budget anticipates $1,533,912 of ARP funds allocated as follows: ($3,089,00 total expected to be received)

- $833,912 for revenue losses
- $318,912 for Memorial Pool losses
- $381,088 for stormwater related items & COVID recovery items included:
  - $331,088 for DPW equipment to assist in maintaining our storm system
  - $100,000 for a stormwater system assessment to create a long-term plan for infrastructure improvements with assistance for the WRC Committee
  - $50,000 for downtown COVID recovery items

2022 APPROPRIATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Capital Improvement Fund: $391K
- Salary & Wages: $16.4M
- Debt Service: $3.3M
- Operating Expense: $6.4M
- Deferred Charges: $4.5M
- Reserve for Uncollectible Taxes: $2.6M
- Statutory/Required: $15.3M

The pie chart illustrates the distribution of funds across different categories.
## 2022 Municipal Budget Summary - COVID Era

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Inc./Desc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;W</td>
<td>$17,898,378</td>
<td>$18,183,559</td>
<td>$18,636,602</td>
<td>+ $453,043 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$5,045,805</td>
<td>$5,111,529</td>
<td>$5,601,561</td>
<td>+ $490,032 (9.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$3,289,381</td>
<td>$3,139,470</td>
<td>$3,198,470</td>
<td>- $41,000 (1.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpaid Taxes Res.</td>
<td>$2,480,000</td>
<td>$2,335,000</td>
<td>$2,576,000</td>
<td>+ $241,000 (10.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Charges</td>
<td>$145,000</td>
<td>$145,000</td>
<td>$463,912</td>
<td>+ $318,912 (222.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory/Required</td>
<td>$17,306,862</td>
<td>$17,419,941</td>
<td>$16,245,043</td>
<td>- $1,074,898 (6.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Imp. Jr.</td>
<td>$1,182,882</td>
<td>$1,093,603</td>
<td>$1,431,212</td>
<td>+ $337,609 (30.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$46,086,406</td>
<td>$46,605,266</td>
<td>$49,201,684</td>
<td>+ $2,596,418 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$17,546,832</td>
<td>$17,274,242</td>
<td>$18,937,172</td>
<td>+ $1,663,930 (9.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$28,538,574</td>
<td>$22,351,209</td>
<td>$30,244,512</td>
<td>+ $7,893,303 (34.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$46,086,406</td>
<td>$46,605,266</td>
<td>$49,201,684</td>
<td>+ $2,596,418 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Rate</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>1.98%</td>
<td>1.98%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Key Expense Drivers in 2022

- **PFRS & PERS Pensions**: + $392,027
- **Insurance (JIF/Major Medical)**: + $389,397
- **Utilities**: + $61,000
- **Police Dept. S&W**: + $425,665 (contractual obligations, 1 new officer; full year costs 2 officers)
- **Fire Dept. S&W**: + $151,000 (contractual obligations)
- **Public Works S&W**: + $97,442 (contractual obligations/addition of 2 employees)
- **Deferred Charges**: + $319,912 (for Memorial Pool losses and offset by ARP funds)
- **Capital Improvement Fund**: + $381,088 (for Stormwater infrastructure items and offset by O&O savings)
- **Public Works O&E**: + $121,182 (new recycling contract, engineering consulting/transportation)
- **Police Dept. O&E**: + $154,757 (police equipment/technology/vehicle replacements)
- **Crossing Guard Program**: + $100,000 (restores funding after COVID savings school closures)
- **Reserve for Uncollected Taxes**: + $50,000
Notable Department Metrics & New Online Efficiencies

- Building Dept.: Online automation for permits and inspections has created efficiencies for residents.
  - 2021 Permits issued: 24, inspections performed: approx. 35 per day.

- Police Dept.: Responded to 33,000 calls for service in 2020, 90 per day.
  - New online automation for home alarm registration and fingerprinting.
  - New hybrid vehicle leasing in 2021 has produced maintenance and gas savings.
  - Service charges for police vehicles and equipment during utility projects has produced significant costs of armor, police car leases, and other police needs.

- Fire Dept.: Responded to 2,897 calls for service in 2020, 8 calls per day.
  - Fire Prevention Bureau moved to online automation for permits and issued 229 permits in 2021.

Notable Department Metrics & New Online Efficiencies

- Recreation Dept. & Memorial Pool:
  - Memorial Pool had a total of 8,017 members in 2021 compared to 5,305 in 2020 and 7,938 in 2019.
  - Offered online guard passes purchasing for the first time in 2021. 7,629 guard passes were sold for $100,000 in revenue.
  - Recreation Department fielded 945 classes in 2021 vs. 1,686 classes in 2020 & 1,115 classes in 2019.

- Public Works Dept.:
  - Conservation Center permits sales have been online since 2020. Permits issued in 2021.
  - Bulk Waste program over 1,100 users in 2021 and processed 207,000 tons of material.
  - Recycling stats 2021: Styrofoam 30K lbs, 18K lbs. So 230,000 total; cardboard 114,000 lbs. Plastic 5 lbs.

- Town Clerk:
  - Recently implemented online opportunities for pet licensing and sidewalk cafe licenses.

Capital Budget 2022

- #2.3MM Capital Budget will support:
  - Significant road paving scheduled, the majority paid by utility companies.
  - Park improvements.
  - Major Drainage Improvements
    - Includes DEP approved stream cleanings in Mindenakis & Finnew and localized drainage projects in connection with road paving.
  - Public Safety improvements & equipment.
  - Technology & Building enhancements.

2019 Road Paving Ordinance Tripled Road Paving Efforts

- 2019 ordnance allowed 24 miles per year, total in 2019: 24 miles.
- 2017 ordnance allowed 3.5 miles per year, total in 2017: 3.5 miles.
2019 Roads Assessment Study Was Instrumental In Prioritizing Streets For Paving

Since over half the roads in town have been paved since 2018, a Roads Assessment Study will be conducted again in fall of 2022 to reset priorities for future paving.

The Road Assessment report has enabled long-term planning and budgeting for paving in partnership with the utility companies, improving road paving volume and cost efficiencies.

Roads resurfacing plan for 2022, 2023, & 2024, along with utility paving projects that have been confirmed to date, will soon be published on Town website.

Future Capital Budget Planning 2023 and Beyond:
Prioritizing Stormwater Infrastructure, Pedestrian Safety, Traffic Circulation, Parks & Fields

- Continued significant road paving and road restriping
- Major drainage improvements in partnership with the Army Corp of Engineers, DEP, WIRC, and recommendations from stormwater assessment report; sewer pump station replacements
- Sidewalk assessment program restoration
- Park improvements: playground replacements, new fields & existing field enhancements; tennis & pickleball courts, new restrooms, trails and plantings
- Traffic light replacements, pedestrian enhancement projects at various intersections; traffic circulation improvements as recommended in the Circulation & Traffic report and Bicycle & Pedestrian plan
- Street sign replacement, downtown wayfinding signage

Substantial Progress Continues

- Successfully navigated through pandemic on solid financial footing providing momentum for future initiatives
- Downtown redevelopment plans are moving forward with an expected public presentation by Streetworks Development in July
- Committed to improvements to our parks and the addition of new fields
- Unprecedented road paving and tree planting programs will continue
- Prioritizing investment in stormwater infrastructure with commitment to creating a long-term strategic capital plan to solidify the system for the future

The Town is in excellent financial condition and committed to responsible fiscal management, investment spending, strategically utilizing surplus, continue essential services, managing pandemic and the final tax rate.

Prioritize opportunities to increase and diversify tax base to reduce overreliance on residential property tax, limit risk exposure, and mitigate against future emergencies and uncertainty.

Invest in downtown economic recovery, infrastructure and public amenities such as roads, drainage, stormwater, parks, recreation, and the arts, and creative sources of funding.

Invest in initiatives that support smart growth, pedestrian safety, traffic safety circulation, storm infrastructure.

2022 BUDGET SUMMARY
APPOINTMENTS

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

PENDING BUSINESS

BIDS

MINUTES
On a motion by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilman LoGrippo Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Conference Session and Regular Meeting held March 8, 2022.

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.

Tim Eaton, 762 Knollwood Terrace, discussed the proposed field project at Edison Intermediate School (EIS) and referred to recent Letters to the Editor in the Westfield Leader. Stated that the letters basically discussed carcinogens and chemicals found in artificial turf and fill. The letters also indicated that while there is no absolute proof that artificial turf leads to illness, the Town should not take the risk. Compared the possible health and environmental effects of artificial turf to smoking, stating that the health impacts of smoking do not occur until years later. Also discussed the lighting component of the project and concerns associated with tower lighting. Feels the Town should hire a professional field manager and find alternative ways to address the field capacity issue. Urged the Town Council to listen to the concerns that have been expressed by residents.

Frank Fusaro, Stanley Avenue, discussed the proposed redevelopment project at Ferris Place/Prospect Street. Feels the project is too large for the area and should be no larger than 10-12 townhouses, similar to a recent project in Summit. Feels the developer needs to redesign the project now, before costly studies are conducted. Also referred to comments concerning redevelopment agreements and how they provide the municipality with more control over projects. Feels residents are not concerned with the aesthetics of the proposed project at Ferris Place/Prospect Street, but with the size and density of the project. Also discussed parking issues in the area and at the Savannah and urged the Town Council to reconsider this project.

Greg Kasko, 434 Everson Place, referred to the 2022 Municipal Budget presentation and commended Councilwoman Habgood for her efforts. Also discussed the proposed EIS field project and feels the Town needs to hire a professional for the maintenance of fields. Lastly, commended Councilman Contract for his responsiveness to his questions and concerns.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Brindle closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Mayor Brindle thanked the residents in attendance. Referred to Mr. Eaton’s comments and stated that she read the Letters to the Editor he referenced and thanked him for bringing them to the Town Council’s attention.
Mayor Brindle also addressed Mr. Fusaro’s comments and stated that the Town is in the midst of addressing the safety and traffic concerns at Ferris Place/Prospect Street and she hopes to have more to report in the next few weeks.

Lastly, Mayor Brindle thanked Mr. Kasko for his comments.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS**

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of $2,570,108.94 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 Contract, were unanimously adopted.

**Resolution No. 90**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of $210.60 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 February 2022.

**Resolution No. 91**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul B. Heroux</td>
<td>South Side RR Stn/Lot 3 #22030434</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>187 Lincoln Road Westfield, NJ 07090</td>
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**Resolution No. 92**

WHEREAS, Anthony Louis Custom Home Builders LLC. placed the required cash bond of $1500.00 to cover the Road Opening Permit #21-043 for 1923 Boynton Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Louis Custom Home Builders LLC. is entitled to have this amount to be returned, and

WHEREAS the Town Engineer has inspected the roadway excavation and has found the excavation to have been properly repaired.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to draw a warrant in the name of Anthony Louis Custom Home Builders LLC. for $1,500.00 and forward to 46 Avalon Lane, Aberdeen, New Jersey 07747.

**Resolution No. 93**

RESOLVED, that the Town Treasurer be authorized to refund the following fees to the following individual:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten Bonn</td>
<td>Tennis/Rec</td>
<td>Refund</td>
<td>$175.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>737 First St</td>
<td>T-05-600-071</td>
<td>In-Town Ultimate/Spring 2022 Matthew Bonn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westfield, NJ 07090</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Kaplan</td>
<td>Tennis/Rec</td>
<td>Refund</td>
<td>$114.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Washington Ave</td>
<td>T-05-600-071</td>
<td>Safe sitters/Babysitting Gabrielle Kaplan/ March 6 class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block/Lot/Qualifier</td>
<td>Property Address</td>
<td>Quarter/Year</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2608/23</td>
<td>636 Hort Street</td>
<td>1st/2022</td>
<td>$2,739.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORNO, Claudia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3010/1/C0001</td>
<td>515 Trinity Place</td>
<td>4th/2021</td>
<td>$1,711.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoreLogic Refunds Dept</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3001 Hackberry Road</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st/2022</td>
<td>$1,707.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving, TX 75063</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,418.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resolution No. 95
WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield entered into a Self-funded Health Insurance program whereby the Town directly pays claims incurred by employees to Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NJ, and

WHEREAS, this Self-funded Health Insurance program provides weekly and/or biweekly invoices summarizing the prior week’s claims, with billings to be paid within 24 hours of receipt, either by wire or via ACH debit; and

WHEREAS, it is advisable to make recurrent ACH payments to relieve the Finance Department of the obligation of entering wires every week and to meet the 24-hour requirement for payment; and

WHEREAS, ACH debits are acceptable means of making payments when authorized by Council and made part of the Cash Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NJ has and will continue to provide their most current Annual Audit (SOC-1) showing satisfactory internal controls are being maintained, a requirement of the Division of Local Government Services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Treasurer is authorized to sign the Authorization Agreement for Preauthorized Payments with Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NJ, allowing for automatic ACH debits from the Town of Westfield’s Self-Insurance account; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that section XI of the Town of Westfield Cash Management Plan be amended to reflect this payment methodology.
WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties, and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State’s General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Town of Westfield in the county of Union urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz, Senator Jon M. Bramnick, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

Resolution No. 97
WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 52:27D-192 et seq. provides for receipt from Uniform Fire Safety Act Penalty Monies to provide for the operating costs to administer this act, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides that dedicated revenues anticipated from Uniform Fire Safety Act Penalty Monies are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for Uniform Fire Safety Act Penalty Monies, as authorized under N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq.

2. The Clerk of the Town of Westfield, County of Union is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution No. 98
WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield sought proposals for the renovation of the North Side Train Station building and to provide operator services for a restaurant/bar/café facility in and around the North Side Train Station;
WHEREAS, on November 5, 2020, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the aforesaid service was advertised to be returnable on January 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2021, two (2) responses to the RFP were received; and

WHEREAS, Maize Westfield, LLC, 1655-298 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820, submitted a proposal to perform said services with certain payments to the Town of Westfield in connection with the operation of the restaurant/bar/café facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield has found the proposal to be responsive to the RFP and is recommending that the Town Council authorize an award of contract to Maize Westfield, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Westfield hereby authorizes an award of contract to Maize Westfield, LLC, 1655-298 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820, for the renovation of the North Side Train Station building and to provide operator services for a restaurant/bar/café facility in and around the North Side Train Station;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be authorized to effect whatever actions are necessary in the execution and discharge of this contract.

Resolution No. 99
WHEREAS, the Local District School Tax for the year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 was raised in the 2021 Tax Levy in the sum of $108,183,929.00, and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of such School Tax up to 50% of the School Tax Levy or $54,091,964.50,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, that the Deferred School Tax for Local District School purpose be in the amount of $54,091,964.50 as of December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three certified copies of this resolution be filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilman LoGrippo was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Resolution No. 100
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2022 Capital Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2022 Temporary Capital Budget for the Town of Westfield, is hereby adopted.

Yeas: Habgood
LoGrippo
Katz
Mackey
Contract
Dardia
Boyes
Mayor Brindle

Nays: Absent: Parmelee

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilwoman Mackey was adopted by the following roll call vote:
Resolution No. 101

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

See 2022 Municipal Budget document on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Yeas: Habgood
     LoGrippo
     Katz
     Mackey
     Contract
     Dardia
     Boyes
     Mayor Brindle

Nays:

Absent: Parmelee

LoGrippo
Katz
Mackey
Contract
Dardia
Boyes
Mayor Brindl

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilman Katz was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Resolution No. 102

WHEREAS, the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget has presented its Budget for the Town of Westfield’s Special Improvement District, in the County of Union, for the Year 2022, and

WHEREAS, the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget for the Year 2022; and

WHEREAS the said Budget is to be published in THE WESTFIELD LEADER in the issue of April 7, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Town of Westfield does hereby approve the following as the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget for the year 2022:

DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD CORPORATION
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
2022 BUDGET

REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL REVENUE</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED REVENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount to be raised by Special Improvement District Assessment</td>
<td>$416,347.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Revenue</td>
<td>$416,347.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROPRIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS</th>
<th>APPROPRIATIONS 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>$191,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$225,347.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Appropriations</td>
<td>$416,347.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yeas: Habgood
     LoGrippo
     Katz
     Mackey
     Contract
     Dardia
     Boyes
     Mayor Brindle

Nays:

Absent: Parmelee
The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, seconded by Councilwoman Mackey adopted by the following roll call vote:

**Resolution No. 103**
RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to make the following transfer(s) in the 2021 Budget (Appropriation Reserve) accounts, where (S&W) refers to the Salary & Wages line item while (O/E) refers to the Other Expenses line items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT FUND</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Executive 1-01-100-109 (O/E)</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal 1-01-120-217 (O/E)</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Department 1-01-130-208 (O/E)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity 1-01-166-211 (O/E)</td>
<td>725</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$2,600
$2,600

Yeas: Habgood
LoGrippo
Katz
Mackey
Contract
Dardia
Boyes
Mayor Brindle

Nays: Absent: Parmelee

**General Ordinance No. 2022-10**
Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Habgood made the following announcement:
I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2022-10 – AN ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.14)”

The motion was seconded by Councilman LoGrippo.

General Ordinance No. 2022-010 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood
LoGrippo
Katz
Mackey
Contract
Dardia
Boyes
Mayor Brindle

Nays: Absent: Parmelee

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2022-10 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 5th day of April 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.
Special Ordinance No. 2022-01

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Habgood made the following announcement:

I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01 – 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 A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $3,175,000 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mackey.

Special Ordinance No. 2022-01 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood, LoGrippo, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, Boyes, Mayor Brindle
Nays: Absent: Parmelee

Heretofore introduced, Special Ordinance No. 2022-01 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 5th day of April 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.

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee

Code Review & Town Property Committee

General Ordinance No. 2022-10

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Mackey made the following announcement:

I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2022-11 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Contract.

General Ordinance No. 2022-11 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood, LoGrippo, Katz, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, Boyes, Mayor Brindle
Nays: Absent: Parmelee
Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2022-11 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 5th day of April 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.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilman LoGrippo at 9:20 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk