

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Skibitsky made the following announcements:

“Prior to convening in regular session, there was an agenda session which was open to public and advertised.”

“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 17, 2015. 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 Skibitsky, Council Members, Arena, Neylan, LoGrippo, Loughlin, Della Fera, Kimmins, Oliveira

ABSENT: Councilman Stokes

Invocation was given by Councilman Loughlin

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Skibitsky read the following public safety message on tips to prevent burglaries:

The Town of Westfield is statistically a very, very safe community. In fact, Westfield was named the 30th Safest City in America by Neighborhood Scout, an independent research firm, based on raw crime data provided by the FBI. Yet it is important to remind my fellow residents that thieves don't look at statistics, nor do they honor municipal boundaries - they only care about opportunity. In New Jersey, burglary is defined as entering a structure, including a motor vehicle, “with purpose to commit an offense therein”. A suspect need not “break in” for the offense to qualify as a burglary, but need only enter a structure with intent to commit an offense. Knowing that burglaries do occur even in statistically safe towns such as Westfield can be a frightening thought. I, therefore, thought that this would be an opportune time to remind everyone that for your own personal safety and that of your family, and to keep your belongings secure, the most fundamental and effective action you can take is to reduce or remove the opportunity for a crime to occur. With this in mind, I urge all residents to observe the following safety tips at all times:

- Lock your car doors and don't keep valuables in plain view, or better yet, don't keep valuables in the car at all when it is unattended.
- Keep all doors and windows to your home locked, even when you are home or in your yard. Don't forget to keep the garage and shed doors locked as well.
- Minimize landscaping around doors and windows so that it can't be used as cover for someone attempting to enter your home.
- Do not announce impending vacations or family events via social media or in any gathering where you cannot control who hears or views such information. (You can always report on such things after the fact.)
- Make sure your house looks lived in from the street. Put lights (and perhaps a radio) on timers. Don't let mail or newspapers accumulate in view. Either stop delivery or ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up for you.
- Motion activated exterior lighting and/or alarm systems have been proven effective, and with the technology available today, there are many surveillance systems available that homeowners can manage remotely.

Remember, for the most part, thieves are opportunistic and look for quick and easy access. When access is denied or even just delayed, it is much less likely that your property will become a target.

While not every criminal act can be prevented, the officers of the Westfield Police Department care deeply about Westfield residents, businesses and visitors and are constantly on the alert for suspicious activities. In addition to the regular neighborhood patrols, the Police Department tracks any developing trends so they can respond accordingly. When warranted, unmarked vehicles operated by plainclothes officers may be employed to patrol or conduct surveillance. The Department also remains alert to activities in other towns (and vice versa) as, again, criminals tend to not recognize municipal boundaries. Law enforcement agencies share information in an effort to identify a trend, a suspect(s), and/or assist with the recovery of stolen property.

Again, I urge everyone to please follow these tips and never hesitate to call 9-1-1 should you see or hear anything out of the ordinary. The eyes and ears of our residents are instrumental in helping to keep our community safe.

APPOINTMENT

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

The Council proceeded to the hearing entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2060– AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 13.”

Advertised returnable this evening.

Mayor Skibitsky declared the hearing closed.

PENDING BUSINESS

An ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2060 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 13.” Introduced by Councilman Loughlin, seconded by Councilman LoGrippo, was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Arena	Nays:	Absent: Stokes
Neylan		
LoGrippo		
Loughlin		
Della Fera		
Kimmins		
Oliveira		
Mayor Skibitsky		

BIDS

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Della Fera, seconded by Councilwoman Kimmins, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held February 9, 2016, with Council Members Arena and Neylan abstaining.

On a motion by Councilwoman Kimmins, seconded by Councilman Loughlin Council approved the Minutes of the Conference Session held February 9, 2016, with Council Members Arena and Neylan abstaining.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**OPEN DISCUSSION BY CITIZENS**

John Rotchford of 866 Knollwood Terrace thanked the Mayor and Council, as well as the Administrator and Department Heads, for their work on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Westfield. He said that he comes to the meetings and listens but doesn't always speak. He said he wanted the Council to know that he and his family appreciate the efforts of the Council to make the Town of Westfield such a great place to live.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Introduced by Councilwoman Neylan, seconded by Councilman Arena and adopted.

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$339,499.77 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 Neylan, Chairman of the Finance Policy Committee, seconded by Councilman Loughlin were unanimously adopted.

(49) RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$959.40 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 January 2016.

(50) RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and she hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the order of the following persons, this amount being taxes overpaid in 2016:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>PROPERTY ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1003/15	258 Sinclair Place	\$3,386.00
BERKO, Barbara		

2609/4 629 Drake Place \$2,590.91

Investors Bank and SMITH, Joseph & Jennifer

MAIL TO:

Investors Bank

101 Wood Avenue South

Iselin, NJ 08830

4801/2 207 Grove Street West \$ 437.10

BERNSTEIN, Jayne

224 Prospect Street Apt 3B

Westfield, NJ 07090

(51) WHEREAS, the following applicants have posted monies to be held in escrow to cover expert advice and testimony in connection with Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications on said property; and

WHEREAS, expert advice and testimony was given, and

WHEREAS, all bills for these applications have been submitted and paid; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested in writing to have the balance of escrow monies be released to them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to draw a check for the balance of the escrow monies as follows:

App #	Name	Address	G/L	Refund Balance
BOA 15-04	Satya Bahadur	421 Kimball Avenue	5-05-560-473	\$805.76
BOA 15-10	Scott Giardina	125 W. Dudley Avenue	5-05-560-475	\$250
BOA 15-11	Jeffrey Gabriel	118 Oak Tree Pass	5-05-560-476	\$500
Refund to:	J. Gabriel Properties, 411 Edgewood Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090			
BOA15-19	Estate of William H. Roeben	1907 Grandview Avenue	5-05-560-488	\$1,000
Refund to:	Cornerstone Associates of Westfield, LLC, 1903 Boynton Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090			

BOA 15-20	Jennifer St. John-Fenton	112 Scotch Plains Ave.	5-05-560-483	\$1,000
BOA 15-22	Emily Ritter	823 Cedar Terrace	5-05-560-486	\$500
BOA 15-25	Harry Lampart	116 Barchester Way	5-05-560-493	\$500
BOA 15-27	Julia Sen	139 Wells Street	5-05-560-492	\$500
BOA 15-28	Xiaozhuang Wang	1129 Irving Avenue	5-05-560-494	\$250
Refund to:	RiteLiving, LLC, 1129 Irving Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090			
BOA 15-29	Kevin Murphy	214 N. Chestnut	5-05-560-495	\$500
BOA 15-30	Christopher Bracco	1015 Summit Avenue	5-05-560-497	\$750
BOA 15-31	Beth Bezanski	1533 Central	5-05-560-498	\$500
BOA 15-32	Marc & Ivette Rizzolo	126 Madison Avenue	5-05-560-499	\$1,000
Refund to:	James Karas Architect, 27 Briar Hills Circle, Springfield, NJ 07081			
BOA 15-33	Carol Nixon	15 Mohawk Trail	5-05-560-509	\$250
BOA 15-34	Alberta Stewart	1170 Central Avenue	5-05-560-496	\$500
Refund to:	RGM Design Group, Inc., 73 Terhune Road, Clark, NJ 07066-2328			
BOA 15-35	Justine Carbone	945 New England Drive	5-05-560-500	\$500
BOA 15-36	Robert Newell	603 Clark St.	5-05-560-501	\$500
BOA 15-37	Jean Jackson	415 Cumberland	5-05-560-502	\$500
BOA 15-39	Isabel Rasoilo	874 North Ave., W	5-05-560-508	\$500
BOA 15-40	Christian & Kristen Victorino	400 W. Grove St.	5-05-560-504	\$500
Refund to:	RGM Design Group, Inc., 73 Terhune Road, Clark, NJ 07066-2328			
BOA 15-41	Diane McKenna	905 Irving Ave.	5-05-560-505	\$500
BOA 15-42	Jose Giraldo	1002 Irving Avenue	5-05-560-506	\$500
BOA 15-43	Toni Redman	550 Fairmont Avenue	5-05-560-507	\$500
BOA 15-45	Stephanie Diaz	120 Marion Avenue	5-05-560-511	\$500
BOA 15-46	Donald MacDonald	430 S Euclid Avenue	5-05-560-512	\$250
BOA 15-48	Angelina Ciaccio	167 Madison Street	5-05-560-514	\$1,000
BOA 15-50	Timothy Donohue	834 Shackamaxon Drive	5-05-560-516	\$500
BOA 15-51	Miroslaw Walus	216 Springfield Avenue	5-05-560-517	\$500
BOA 15-52	Beth & William Lambert	819 Cedar Terrace	5-05-560-518	\$750
BOA 15-58	Ana & Rui Azevedo	101 Clifton Street	5-05-560-524	\$250

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

Reports of Department Heads

Reports of Susan Noon, Collector of Taxes, showing taxes total collections of tax and sewer \$10,182,920.07 during the period January 1, 2016 to January 30, 2016.

Report of Carol Salvaggio, Certified Court Administrator, stating that she had turned over to the Chief Financial Officer check in the amount of \$53,064.69 representing fines and costs collected in the Municipal Court and Violations Bureau during the month of January 2016 was received, read and ordered filed.

Report of Claire J. Gray, Town Clerk, showing fee collected in the amount of \$12,778.00 during the month of January 2016 was received, read, and ordered filed.

Report of Steve Freedman, Construction Official, showing monies collected for permits in the amount of \$150,309.00 for the month of January 2016 was received, read and ordered filed.

Report of David J. Kelly, Chief of the Fire Department, showing Smoke Detector Fees collected in January 2016 in the amount of \$3,050.00 and \$47.00 Permit Fees was received, read and ordered filed.

Report of David C. Wayman, Chief of the Police Department, showing fee collecting in the amount of \$6,096.90 during the month of January 2016.

Upon motion by Councilman LoGrippo, seconded by Councilwoman Kimmins the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Claire J. Gray
Town Clerk