

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 2020

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, April 14, 2020 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, 2019. 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, LoGrippo, Katz, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, 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

Administrator's Update

- Provided an update of improvements to Mindowaskin Park and stated that while the parks are closed, work is being conducted. The pathway improvement project started last week with the installation of ADA ramps. Work was delayed for a few days due to the rain but would be expected to resume this week. Pathway improvements would begin upon the completion of the ADA ramps, followed by roadway paving on Park Drive. Explained that the funds for these projects were included in the 2018 budget and the timing to begin was thought to be appropriate since Town parks are currently closed;
- Discussed the painting of the mural under the South Avenue train trestle which was funded through grants. Stated that the Town received its reimbursement from the State and can now begin painting the mural on the second side below the trestle. DPW Supervisor Rich Eubanks would be meeting with the artist and the construction company who has donated their time to install the painting surface on the NJ Transit wall. Feels the next phase of this project would begin in the next few weeks based upon the artist's schedule and the delivery of the materials. Feels this will be a nice project for the community and reiterated the fact that it is being funded with grant money;
- Provided an update on the status of the coffee kiosk and explained that the delays related to the project are attributed to the utility work that is needed. Stated that the Town Engineer has been working with PSE&G, New Jersey American Water and NJ Transit and today trenching for utility lines has begun. Once the utility work is complete, the interior renovations to the kiosk be would be completed, followed by an RFP for a concessionaire. Also mentioned that this project is being funded through funds allocated in the 2019 Municipal Budget;
- Announced that the wetlands delineation study for Tamaques Park began today. Informed the Town Council that a meeting with the vendor retained to conduct the study was held at the park yesterday and stated that funding was provided by Union County through a grant program which will fund half of the cost for the study. The purpose of the study is to determine if there are areas within Tamaques Park that can be used for sports and/or structures as per the Town's Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Also mentioned that Mayor Brindle met with him, the DPW Director and the vendor at the park today to discuss the delineation study, and to review the condition of the current fields. Feels it could be an opportunity for the Department of Public Works to do some aeration and seeding while the parks are not in use. Stated that this work would include field nos. 1 and 2 and explained that the seeding of public fields involves a great deal of effort. Believes Tamaques Park is a good location to start this work because it drains very well. Stated that the fields at Tamaques Park were very dry despite the significant rainfall yesterday, while Gumbert Park and Memorial Park still have standing water. If the work

at these fields is successful, there would be a plan to seed other fields in the future. In addition, discussed the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan and stated that the consultant who prepared the plan, Brandstetter Carroll, has been asked to review next steps in this process, such as an RFP/RFQ, and perhaps a potential contract with Brandstetter Carroll to conduct a feasibility study for the field at Edison School, as well as Tamaques Park Fieldhouse capabilities, which are contingent upon the wetlands delineation study. Feels the timeframe of the closure of the parks might be beneficial to the Town and might help guide what can be done at Tamaques Park and other parks. A meeting with the committee Mayor Brindle established, which consists of Board of Education members and Recreation Commission members, to review proposals received from Brandstetter Carroll, and to determine next steps in continuing the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for Tamaques Park and Edison School;

- Discussed the Conservation Center, which is scheduled to open on April 16. Informed the Town Council that there was an overwhelming response to the online purchase of permits, with close to five hundred (500) permits purchased. Thanked residents who utilized the portal for the purchase of permits and feels it has worked well. Discussed the need for patience and cooperation by residents when the Conservation Center opens. Informed the Town Council that he learned today that there are two (2) DPW employees home self-quarantining for potential exposure to the coronavirus and stated that the virus has now impacted the Town's Police Department, Fire Department, Building Department as well as the Department of Public Works. Discussed changes with the opening of the Conservation Center and explained that it would only be open on Thursdays and Fridays for the time being. The reason the Conservation Center would be closed on weekends is because the Town has relied upon a state grant to fund the weekend operating hours and it is unknown at this time if that grant funding will be provided. Explained that the closure of the Conservation Center on weekends is only temporary and the Town intends to restore those operating hours once the Municipal Budget is formalized in the next few weeks and more information is learned as to whether the State will be providing grant funds. Also mentioned free recycling opportunities that are provided free of charge, once the Conservation Center is open.

Councilman LoGrippe asked if the permit fee for the Conservation Center could be reduced to the 2019 rate, due to the reduction in operating hours.

The Town Administrator stated that he does not feel the fee could be reduced because nearly five hundred (500) people have already purchased permits at the current fee, and the reduction in operating hours is only temporary. Stated that it is ultimately the Town Council's decision if the fee were to be reduced, but he does not recommend a reduction at this time.

Councilman Contract asked if there are concerns with traffic backup on Lamberts Mill Road when the Conservation Center opens and how this would be addressed. Suggested posting certain wait times for residents, especially due to the fact that the Conservation Center is opening on a workday.

The Town Administrator stated that those who have already purchased permits would be contacted tomorrow as to the process for obtaining decals and disposing of items. In addition, the Police Department would be on site to assist the Department of Public Works. Also asked that residents be patient and to stagger the times they go to the Conservation Center. Explained that the inside of the Conservation Center has been changed and specific lanes have been created for specific items, such as a lane for the drop off of organic debris and the drop off of recyclable material. Also discussed the process for obtaining decals to avoid contact between residents and DPW employees. Feels the transaction for decals should move quickly because the fee has been pre-paid.

Councilman LoGrippe requested further clarification as to why the hours could not be extended the days the Conservation Center is open, and why Wednesdays could not be added to the hours.

The Town Administrator explained that the Conservation Center has historically only been opened on Thursdays and Fridays during the week. Other weekdays are spent processing the material that is dropped off and for transporting of the material once it is processed. In addition, extending the hours on Thursdays and Fridays would create overtime, which the Town is attempting to avoid at this time due to the uncertain budget situation. Feels the Town will have a

better understanding of its budget and whether grant funds will be provided by the State in the next two (2) weeks.

Councilman LoGrippe requested clarification of the State funds provided for the Conservation Center and stated that it seems the Town will not be able to fund weekend hours without State monies.

The Town Administrator explained that weekend hours could be funded through the Municipal Budget, which should be determined within the next two (2) weeks.

Councilman Contract feels it is important for residents to know that no decision has been made to change the hours of the Conservation Center due to the pandemic. Stated that a lot of misinformation has been circulated on social media. The Finance Policy Committee would be discussing this and would make a decision during its review of the budget. Stated that as a member of both the Finance Policy Committee and the Public Works Committee, he does not want the hours for the Conservation Center reduced. Explained that it is a potential revenue source for the Town and feels it would not make financial sense to reduce operating hours.

Councilman LoGrippe feels a reduction in the fee to the 2019 rate should also be considered during these discussions.

Councilman Contract feels a reduction in the fee could be considered, but referred to the Town Administrator's comment that the current hours are temporary and the fee applies to the full year.

The Town Administrator added that the permit fee is used to offset the processing costs for the organic debris that is collected and transferred at the Conservation Center. It is not allocated to employee's salaries. Also mentioned other recycling programs that are offered at the Conservation Center free of charge.

Councilman Contract asked the Town Administrator to discuss the food waste management program that was available at the Conservation Center.

The Town Administrator explained that while the food waste program had been successful, Waste Management has informed the Town that it is suspending operation of this program until further notice due to low volume of waste that has been recently collected.

Mayor's Remarks

- Announced that this is the first virtual Town Council meeting via Zoom and thanked those who have joined the meeting. Mentioned that the entire Town Council is in attendance via video, as well as Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Police Chief, Town Planner, Town Attorney, and Town Engineer. In addition, other department heads are listening in with the public. Reminded residents that public comment would only be accepted via Zoom, and that a replay of the meeting would be available on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36. Also stated that her comments tonight would serve as today's daily COVID-19 update;
- Provided an update on COVID-19 and announced that as of April 14, 2020 there were 68,824 confirmed cases in New Jersey, with another 1,702 still under investigation. Union County reported 7,265 cases, with Westfield reporting 14 more, bringing Westfield's case total to 146 to date. Stated that the last time a Town Council meeting was held was three weeks ago. As a matter of context, at that time there were 3,675 cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with a total of 16 in Westfield. Reminded residents that a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers is available online at the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard;
- Informed residents that the New Jersey Department of Health issued a waiver allowing certain individuals with EMT or paramedic experience, but whose certifications have expired within the last five (5) years, to return to the job in response to the current health crisis. In addition, announced that Governor Murphy plans to sign a bill that would allow employees forced to care for family members because of COVID-19 up to twelve (12) weeks of family leave in a 24-month period without losing their jobs. The Governor will also sign the bill extending the tax filing deadline for income and corporate taxes, and for estimated payments, from April 15 to July 15. This bill also extends Fiscal Year 2020 to September 30;

- Provided an update of local matters and announced that she signed a proclamation today to honor the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which will take place on April 22. Thanked the Green Team for the energy, enthusiasm and action it brings to this mission all year, and particularly during Earth Month. Despite not being able to continue with the robust line up for which they had originally planned, they have shifted to a Virtual Earth Month celebration that includes the launch of a video series and a do-it-at-home Climate Ribbon project. In addition, announced that she signed on to Climate Mayors, a bipartisan network of US Mayors working together to demonstrate leadership on climate change through meaningful action in their communities. <http://climatemayors.org/>;
- Discussed Mental Health Awareness Month, which is recognized in May, and thanked the Mental Health Council for the work they have done since their inception last year to normalize discussions about mental health, make Westfield a stigma-free community, and ensure that residents have easy access to mental health resources. Feels the onset of this pandemic has mental health implications for many, and the Mental Health Council has been extremely helpful in providing informative links and information that are now included in the Town's Coronavirus Information Center;
- Thanked all who have donated to the We Love Local Fund to benefit Westfield's local business community. To date, the fund has received \$202,000 from more than seven hundred (700) donors and has distributed \$183,000 to one hundred and thirty-five (135) Westfield businesses. Also acknowledged other related fundraising efforts for this cause and thanked J. McLaughlin for their retail fundraiser that yielded over \$600 in donations. In addition, thanked Westfield resident Joe Mindak, whose painted pallets have raised \$3,500 for We Love Local, and Westfield High School students who have organized an upcoming Westfield Fortnite Tournament to be held this Friday and Saturday to benefit We Love Local. Additional details on the tournament are available on their Instagram page: @westfieldfortnitefundraiser;
- Announced that while it is unknown when large scale events can resume, a decision to cancel the Memorial Day parade has been made because of the logistics that would need to be secured and finalized within the next month. The parade is tentatively scheduled for a date in either July or September at a time when residents can gather and properly honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A new date would be communicated at the appropriate time;
- Provided an update on the Town's finances and stated that questions concerning the May 1 property tax deadline continue to be received. Explained that there is currently a ten-day grace period in place for that payment however the Town does not have the authority to extend that grace period. As such, an extension must come from the State. The State Assembly passed a bill for an extension, but the Senate declined it after intense lobbying by counties and schools. Explained that, as the municipality, the Town is the tax collector and is mandated to first pay the county and school obligations in full. In the event that tax collections decline, which is anticipated, the municipality is the one responsible to "plug budget holes". Stated that she shares in the frustration and that she has been contacting other mayors about potential options. Explained that the Town expects some recommendations from the NJ State League of Municipalities tomorrow, and that she would communicate any updates received on this issue that impacts many;
- Discussed the 2020 Municipal Budget and explained that in anticipation of declining revenues, the Town is in the process of revisiting its budget, as the entire economy continues to process the impact of this pandemic. Explained that forty-five (45%) percent of the Town's budget is generated by non-property tax revenues, such as parking, construction, and courts, all of which were lower than anticipated prior to the pandemic, and are now at a virtual stand-still, The timing and certainty of their restoration is unknown. It also remains unclear what the impact of COVID will have on property tax collections due to high levels of unemployment. As a result, the Town will be proposing significant and potentially drastic budget cuts based upon reduction in revenue projections and will be prepared to share these details with the public when the budget is introduced at the next meeting on April 28;
- Discussed redevelopment and feels the impact of this pandemic on the Town's current financial situation reaffirms what she shared during the March 10 Council meeting regarding the necessity and urgency of expanding and diversifying the tax base. To that end, informed residents that the Planning Board endorsed the Town Council's redevelopment resolution, and has directed its redevelopment planner to do a study to determine if the Town's eight (8) municipal parking lots, the Lord & Taylor properties, and the Rialto property qualify as non-condemnation areas in need of redevelopment; In

addition, tonight the Town Council is taking the next step by voting on a resolution requesting that the Planning Board study the entire downtown within the Special Improvement District to determine if it qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation. As a reminder, this designation allows for agreements with property owners that is meant to encourage them to improve their properties through five-year tax abatements on the value of their improvements. Stated that property owners were very enthusiastic about this designation when asked for their input last month. This designation seems more necessary now than ever as a means to ensure that Downtown Westfield not only survives but eventually thrives after emerging from the other side of this pandemic;

- In closing, thanked all for their patience, resilience, and sense of community during this time of incredible uncertainty. Explained that Information about COVID-19 has moved rapidly, with ongoing new updates about confirmed cases and fatalities, social distancing requirements, testing availability, best practices, and calls to assist those in need, which is a lot to take in, day after day. Stated that it has been just over a month since her initial COVID-19 message to the community, and the world already looks very different in that time span. Feels things that were taken for granted as part of everyday life are now temporarily suspended and that no one envisioned April being a time for distance learning, waiting in lines to enter grocery stores, and wearing face coverings in public. Stated that she understands that none of this is easy for anyone, but the stay at home order means just that: Stay at home, except for essential travel, which should be limited as much as possible. Feels everyone can do this and assured residents that every decision she makes in these unprecedented times is with the best interest of the community in mind, which she believes is everyone's shared goal. Encouraged residents to keep providing their suggestions, and to keep the good news about community-led initiatives coming. Stated that she reads every message she receives, and feels it is heartening to see Westfield come together when everyone needs it most.

Councilman LoGrippe referred to Mayor Brindle's comments concerning the May 1 deadline for the payment of property taxes and stated that it is his understanding that the Town could waive the interest due after the ten (10) day grace period has expired.

Mayor Brindle stated that is an option that is being considered and would require discussion as there are statutory requirements related to changes in the interest for late tax payments. Stated that guidance from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities is expected tomorrow.

Councilman LoGrippe also asked if there would be any consideration given for a refund for parking permit fees for the trains station parking lot.

Mayor Brindle feels the train station parking lot is a unique situation because the Town has not closed those lots. Believes any reimbursement should be the responsibility of employers because it was employers who made a decision to close or have employees work from home.

Councilman Contract discussed Lifelong Westfield and stated that the members of the Senior Advisory Council have been calling senior citizens during the pandemic to check on them and those who have been called have been sincerely appreciative of the gesture. Also thanked the Police Department and St. Helen's Food Pantry for providing services to senior citizens, such as grocery shopping. Feels it keeps senior citizens out of harm's way and speaks to the specialness of the Westfield community.

Mayor Brindle discussed a note of thanks she received from one of the senior citizens who was contacted by the Senior Advisory Council.

APPOINTMENTS

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2169

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REGARDING ROAD OPENINGS AND STREET PAVING”

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

PENDING BUSINESS

An ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2169 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REGARDING ROAD OPENINGS AND STREET PAVING" by Councilwoman Mackey, seconded by Councilman Contract, was taken up, read and passed by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

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

BIDS

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman LoGrippo and seconded by Councilman Dardia, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting held March 24, 2020.

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.

Gregory Kasko, 434 Everson Place, stated that he has not purchased a permit because he will be unable to utilize the Conservation Center during its current operating hours due to his work schedule. Asked if any consideration has been given to shifting schedules of DPW employees that would allow the Conservation Center to be open one day on the weekend every other week. Also asked if the Town is allowing out of town contractors to purchase permits, and if so, could those fees be raised to offset the cost for weekend operating hours. Explained that other residents also face this issue and those who do not use landscapers will have a problem dropping off debris at the Conservation Center during the hours it is open.

Councilman Contract stated that he appreciates the issue that some residents face with the limited operating hours for the Conservation Center. Stated that he would be advocating for extended hours and hopes that once the budget is reviewed, funding will be available to allow for additional hours, including weekend hours to accommodate residents' work schedules.

Mr. Kasko asked if it curb pickup for yard debris could be considered if the debris were bagged.

Councilman Contract stated that there have been some informal discussions about curbside pickup of yard debris however that service would also be costly, as well as challenging, due to the staggered shifts DPW employees are currently working as a result of the pandemic. Explained that there is a commitment on his part, as a member of the Finance Policy Committee and the Public Works Committee, to find a better solution and hopes that in the next few weeks when the budget is finalized, there will be a solution found that works for residents.

Mr.Kasko thanked Councilman Contract for his response. Also thanked all that is being done by the Town during this crisis.

Liz Mulholland, 1029 Harding Street, thanked the Mayor and Town Council for their efforts throughout this crisis. Also discussed the 2020 Municipal Budget and feels there have been

“mixed messages” passed on by elected officials. Stated that Councilman LoGrippe recently posted that there was no funding in the budget to keep the Conservation Center open on the weekends. Referenced the Town Administrator’s comments in which it was stated that Conservation Center hours have not yet been determined and discussions needed to occur. Feels it is important for everyone to be “on the same page” because it causes confusion otherwise.

Councilman LoGrippe thanked Ms. Mulholland for her comments. Referenced the Town Administrator’s update at the beginning of the meeting with respect to the Conservation Center and stated that the Town is waiting for information from the State as to the funding that is normally provided which offsets the cost for weekend hours.

Ms. Mulholland feels there is an important difference between a statement that indicates that the Conservation Center will be closed on weekends, versus a statement that indicates that discussions will be held concerning weekend hours for the Conservation Center. Feels councilmembers needs to be careful about information they are posting. Feels it creates miscommunication.

Councilman LoGrippe referenced previous budget discussions and tax increases that were contemplated.

Councilwoman Habgood referred to a conversation she had earlier today with Councilman LoGrippe about the fact that budget numbers have not been finalized and no public presentation has been made. Feels this is a very stressful time for residents and believes there is no reason to discuss potential tax rates before they are approved. Feels Councilman LoGrippe is attempting to repeat discussions that have occurred that are not public information.

Councilman LoGrippe feels he is attempting to be transparent by discussing the tax rate that was considered prior to the pandemic.

Councilwoman Habgood explained that the tax rate considered prior to the pandemic was not presented to the public and feels it is inappropriate to discuss.

Councilman LoGrippe feels in order to be fully transparent, the budget that was considered prior to the pandemic should be disclosed.

Councilwoman Habgood feels Councilman LoGrippe’s comments are not about transparency, but about disclosing incorrect information to the public.

Councilman Contract feels there is a difference between transparency and keeping things confidential. Stated that discussions held by the Finance Policy Committee does not become public until there is a formal presentation.

Ms. Mulholland requested clarification as to the definition of executive session.

Councilman LoGrippe stated that Finance Policy Committee meetings are different than executive session.

Councilman Contract also stated that committee meetings are different than executive sessions, however discussions held in committee meetings, such as the Finance Policy Committee, only become public when they are presented to the full Town Council. Stated that he believes Councilwoman Habgood discussed this with Councilman LoGrippe and feels it is inappropriate for Councilman LoGrippe to disclose what was discussed during a Finance Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Mulholland feels information should not be disclosed until there is agreement amongst councilmembers because it causes confusion otherwise. Reiterated her thanks to all for their efforts.

Mayor Brindle feels that at all times, but particularly during times of stress, citizens want the truth and facts from their leaders. In addition, citizens also want assurance that their leaders are working together for the common cause. Feels what just transpired between councilmembers is not about what was communicated but gives the perception that elected officials are not on the

“same page” and that there is information being circulated to intentionally “stir the pot” and cause dissension. Believes information was being distributed to the public without proper context and was done intentionally to undermine discussions that were held in good faith. Stated that she does not have patience for this and does not feel the public has patience for it either. Explained that it is not about what the public should or should not know, but what they should know with the proper context behind it as a means to get to the truth. Feels what was or was not decided is irrelevant because all will be working in the same direction to achieve a budget that works for all going forward. In addition, stated that she appreciates Ms. Mulholland’s comments and feels everyone should agree that there is no room for anyone to cause dissension or for anyone to try use it as an opportunity for political gain, or to “score political points”. Feels the public is smart enough to see that and stated that there is no room for it on this Town Council. Feels all will be working towards something that is a compassionate and good outcome for all.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle closed this portion of the meeting.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$1,470,309.99 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:

Prior to moving forward with the report of the Finance Policy Committee, Councilwoman Habgood provided an update of the 2020 Municipal Budget process. Stated that the budget is under review due to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Town operations and revenue. Efforts are being made to reduce the budget as much as possible and to relieve pressure on residents. Also referenced Mayor Brindle’s comments and efforts of the Finance Policy Committee to work as a team. Stated that the 2020 Municipal Budget would be presented to the public on April 28, 2020, although it is uncertain at this time how that presentation would occur since it is expected that Town Council meetings would continue to be held remotely. Also stated that final adoption of the budget is required by May 26, 2020.

Finance Policy Committee
Councilwoman Habgood

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

Resolution No. 87

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Ling Gu 518 Downer St Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05 – 600-071 Tennis/Rec	Manneration Classes Social Etiquette (\$40) Dinning Etiquette (\$55) Refund/Rec. Canceled Classes Maxwell Wu	\$95.00
Maria Bruscianelli 160 Cottage Place Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05 -600 – 071 Tennis/Rec	Manneration Classes Refund/Rec Canceled– 2 Participants Stella Bruscianelli (\$55) Luca Bruscianelli (\$55)	\$110.00

Andrew Salzano 507 South Chestnut St Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	Classes Refund/Rec Canceled Classes Kelly/CPR Training (\$100) Natalie/Dining Etiquette (\$55) Nina /Dining Etiquette (\$55)	\$210.00
Tina Torres 605 Chestnut St Union, NJ 07083	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	CPR Training Refund/Rec Canceled Class Tina Torres (\$100) Charlie Torres (\$100)	\$200.00
Peter Nurnberg 780 Cranford Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	Safe Sitter Babysitters Training Refund/Rec Canceled Class Alexis Nurnberg	\$95.00
Eugene Ing 210 N Chestnut St Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	Safe Sitter Babysitters Training Refund/Rec Canceled Class Owen Ing	\$95.00
Joseph Koczur 1129 Boynton Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	Casino Trip Refund/Rec Canceled Joseph Koczur	\$40.00
Lynn Driscoll 1129 Boynton Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec	Casino Trip Refund/Rec Canceled Lynn Driscoll	\$40.00

Resolution No. 88

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$144.60 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 March 2020.

Resolution No. 89

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$350.00 to the order of Treasurer, State of New Jersey, P.O. Box 660, Trenton, NJ 08646-0660 for Marriage/Civil Union License Fees issued by the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the quarter of January - March 2020.

Resolution No. 90

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 19-36	Joe & Chrissy Chan	509 Boulevard Unit A	0-05-560-768	\$446.51
Return to:	Joe & Chrissy Chan	509 Boulevard Unit A	Westfield	07090

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

Resolution No. 91

WHEREAS, a condition has arisen with respect to either funds being needed for salaries and wages and/or contracts, commitments or payments being due to various vendors prior to the adoption of the 2020 Budget, and no provision was made in the 2020 Temporary Budget for the aforesaid purposes, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951, as amended) including this resolution total \$9,139,274.00 for the Current Fund and \$46,000.00 for the Swimming Pool Utility Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. The emergency temporary appropriations listed below will be provided for in the 2020 Budget under the titles shown and for the amounts given as follows:

Current Fund

	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
Administrative & Executive	30,000.00	-
Town Clerk	17,000.00	2,000.00
TV 36	-	(280.00)
Collection of Taxes	10,000.00	-
Assessment of Taxes	13,000.00	(1,350.00)
Financial Administration	25,000.00	-
Legal Services & Costs	-	42,000.00
Municipal Court	64,000.00	-
Municipal Prosecutor	4,000.00	-
Engineering Services	53,000.00	-
Public Works	70,000.00	182,000.00
Public Buildings & Grounds	-	-
Fire Department	261,000.00	4,000.00
Fire Official	16,000.00	-
Fire Hydrant Service	-	42,000.00
Parking Administration	20,000.00	-
Police Department	476,000.00	-
Crossing Guards	-	237,000.00
Emergency Management	-	-
Inspection of Buildings	49,000.00	-
Planning Board	-	8,000.00
Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority	-	40,000.00
Telephone	-	37,000.00
Electricity	-	-
Street Lighting	-	-
Water	-	1,000.00
Gasoline	-	-
Heating Gas	-	-
Board of Health	6,000.00	7,000.00
Board of Health (Contractual)	72,000.00	-
Recreation	17,000.00	-
Celebration of Public Events	-	-
Maintenance of Free Public Library	184,000.00	-
Animal Control	-	8,000.00
Board of Adjustment	-	-
Group Insurance	-	743,000.00
Other Insurance	-	-
Social Security System (OASI)	-	157,000.00
Debt Service – DBIZ Loan	-	10,000.00
Subtotal	1,387,000.00	1,518,370.00

In the total amount of \$2,905,370.00

Swimming Pool Utility Fund

	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
Swimming Pool Operations	-	-
Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)	-	-
Social Security (OASI)	-	-
Subtotal	-	-

In the total amount of \$0.00

Yeas: Habgood
 Parmalee
 LoGrippo
 Katz
 Mackey
 Contract
 Dardia
 Boyes
 Mayor Brindle

Nays:

Absent:

The Town Administrator explained that Resolution No. 91 authorizes an amendment to temporary appropriations to allow the Town to continue operations until a final budget is adopted.

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee

Code Review & Town Property Committee

Prior to the report of the Code Review and Town Property Committee, the Town Planner provided an overview of Resolution No. 92, referring a rehabilitation area study and resolution to the Planning Board for review.

The Town Administrator commended the Town Planner and the Town Engineer for their efforts with the Rehabilitation Area Study. Feels it is a good report and the Town Council would be voting tonight to refer it to the Planning Board for review.

The Town Planner discussed properties recently reviewed as potential redevelopment areas, including the Rialto, the Lord and Taylor property and municipal parking lots. Explained that Resolution No. 92 pertains to a different type of designation and would delineate the Special Improvement District as an area in need of rehabilitation. Discussed the differences between a redevelopment area and an area in need of rehabilitation, explaining that the main difference is under an area of rehabilitation, property cannot be taken by eminent domain. In addition, long-term tax abatements cannot be granted under rehabilitation delineations, however short-term abatements are permitted. Discussed the process moving forward if the Town Council supports the delineation and stated that an ordinance allowing for short-term tax abatements would be required. Also stated that the process is much simpler than the process required for the designation of a redevelopment area. Referenced the Mayor’s comments in which she stated that downtown property owners were supportive of the rehabilitation delineation because the tax abatement helps them to improve their properties. Stated that he and the Town Engineer feel the Special Improvement District meets the qualifications for a rehabilitation designation and hopes the Town Council will concur. In addition, the Town Planner discussed other municipalities in which Special Improvement Districts were delineated as an area in need of rehabilitation, including Montclair, Asbury Park, South Orange and Metuchen, and stated that this delineation is very common. Feels the redevelopment law is a great tool for municipalities to use.

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Mackey, Chairwoman of the Code Review & Town Property Committee and seconded by Councilman Contract, was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 92

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.* (the “Redevelopment Law”) provides a mechanism to empower and assist local governments to promote the advancement of community interests through programs of redevelopment for the expansion and improvement of commercial, industrial, residential and civic facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Law empowers the Town of Westfield (the “Town”), by and through its Mayor and Council (the “Governing Body”), to delineate an area within the Town as an area in need of rehabilitation if the area qualifies under one of the criteria enumerated under *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14*; and

WHEREAS, Town Planner, Donald B. Sammet, PP/AICP, and Town Engineer, Kris McAloon, PE, had been directed to investigate whether the properties set forth by block, lot and street address attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Study Area”) qualified as an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sammet and Mr. McAloon prepared a report entitled “*Downtown Westfield Area in Need of Rehabilitation Study*” dated March 25, 2020 which is attached hereto as Exhibit B (the “Study Report”); and

WHEREAS, the Study Report concludes that because a majority of water and sewer infrastructure in the Study Area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance, the Study Area qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation under the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Law requires that the Mayor and Council refer the Study Report and any proposed resolution delineating the Study Area (the “Proposed Resolution”), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C, to the Planning Board for review.

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

1. The Clerk is hereby directed to refer the Study Report and Proposed Resolution to the Planning Board for review and recommendation. Within forty-five (45) days of its receipt of the Study Report and Proposed Resolution, the Planning Board shall conduct its review at an open

meeting and shall adopt and deliver to the Mayor and Council a resolution recommending that the Proposed Resolution be adopted, not be adopted, or be adopted with amendments.

2. All Town officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Public Works Committee

The following resolution, introduced by Councilman Contract, Chairman of the Public Works Committee and seconded by Councilman LoGrippo, was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 93

WHEREAS, in accordance with R.S. 40:14A-4 and the by-laws of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority created pursuant thereto, the Town of Westfield is entitled to appoint one member of the said Authority for a term of five (5) years: and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield's position to the Rahway Sewerage Authority is currently vacant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield that Edward Gottko is hereby appointed a member of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority for a term ending February 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution along with the appropriate filing fee of \$5.00 to the State of New Jersey, Division of Revenue, 225 West State Street, PO Box 308, Trenton, NJ 08625-0308 and a certified copy to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority.

The Administrator discussed the qualifications of the individual appointed to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, Edward Gottko, stating that he is Westfield resident as well as Westfield's former engineer, administrator and engineering consultant. In addition, stated that Mr. Gottko has helped create sewer utilities in other municipalities and feels this expertise will be valuable in the event Westfield decides to move forward with a sewer utility.

Mayor Brindle stated that she spoke with Mr. Gottko today and she feels a sewer utility is something the Town should investigate.

Councilman LoGrippo asked if a Westfield representative has been attending RVSA meetings since the expiration of the term of the Town's previous representative.

The Town Administrator explained that the previous representative's term ended February 1, 2020, and due to COVID-19, RVSA meetings have been cancelled. Believes only one meeting was held without a Westfield representative present.

Reports of Department Heads

ADJOURNMENT

The Town Administrator extended his thanks to various employees for their efforts during this pandemic and stated that Westfield is being looked at as a model for the way its handled certain initiatives, such as We Love Local.

Mayor Brindle extended a special thanks to the Public Information Officer for her efforts with daily COVID-19 updates.

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilman Contract and seconded by Councilwoman Mackey at 9:08 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk