

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 24, 2018

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Brindle 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 12, 2017. The notice was, on that date, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, mailed to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE STAR LEDGER, and TAP INTO WESTFIELD and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Westfield.”

PRESENT: Mayor Brindle, Council Members Habgood, Arena, Dardia, Neylan, LoGrippo, Contract, Stokes, Mackey

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Mackey followed by the flag salute

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Brindle presented the following proclamation:

Town of Westfield

Westfield, New Jersey

PROCLAMATION

National Music Week

May 6 – May 13, 2018

Music...the Universal Language

WHEREAS, music is one of the most inspiring and rewarding of human pursuits and, as the language of all peoples, is enjoyed by all cultures and societies throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, music is one of the greatest influences in creating and sustaining a state of genuine peace and harmony; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Musical Club of Westfield, organized in 1915, is: “To Foster and Encourage Good Music”; and

WHEREAS, the year 2018 marks the Club’s 103rd anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Musical Club of Westfield encourages the performance of classical music in the Westfield community and supports the efforts of musical artists of all ages by providing a local showcase for their talents; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of Music Clubs, which is dedicated to encouraging young musicians to increase their musical knowledge and to advancing American music, and its cooperating organizations, work together harmoniously to direct attention to the dynamic influence of music in everyday living; and

WHEREAS, National Music Week, first observed in 1924, was founded by long time Westfield resident, Mr. Charles M. Tremaine; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Federation of Music Clubs, the theme of National Music Week 2018 is *Music...the Universal Language*, and its observance offers the opportunity to focus attention on music as a dynamic means of communication between people and a satisfying channel of personal expression that can serve as a great force for maintaining peace and harmony among peoples;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, on behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Westfield, hereby congratulate the Musical Club of Westfield on the occasion of its 103rd anniversary and, in appreciation of the importance of music in a civilized world, hereby designate the week of May 6 through May 13 of the year 2018 as *Music Week* in the Town of Westfield.

Mayor Brindle presented the following proclamation:

Town of Westfield

Westfield, New Jersey

PROCLAMATION

Westfield Day Care Center 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, in 1965, to answer the needs of area families, a group of Church Women United explored the feasibility of opening a day care center in Westfield; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the Women's efforts, the Westfield Day Care Center began operation on April 8, 1968 with 15 children and two teachers in the old Madison Avenue Chapel; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, a group of 49 women founded the Day Care Auxiliary to assist the Day Care Center, and in 1981, the Auxiliary began operating "The Little Shop on the Corner" which has contributed over \$300,000 to the Center's operations; and

WHEREAS, as the Center rapidly grew, a Kindergarten class was added in 1972 serving 19 children at the Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, as the need for high quality infant care became evident, the Westfield Infant Care Center was opened in 1984 in a remodeled building on West Broad Street; and

WHEREAS, with a mission to provide quality, affordable infant and childcare to all families, the Center conducts various fundraising efforts, such as a children's gently used clothing and toy sale and a family 5K race, to help support the scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, the Center's scholarship fund also receives donations and grants from dedicated supporters, including the Westfield United Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Day Care Center consistently fulfills its goal of ensuring that the individual needs of each child are met by providing them with the opportunity to develop their social, emotional, physical, and intellectual skills in a safe and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Day Care Center, the second oldest not-for-profit day care facility in New Jersey, is accredited with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and is a participant in the "Grow NJ Kids" program to continue to raise the quality of its early childhood program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, on behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Westfield, hereby congratulate the Westfield Day Care Center on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and, further, offer heartfelt thanks to all the

past and present teachers, staff members, volunteers, and administrators who have lovingly provided the thousands of children they have had in their care with opportunities for social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth.

Friends of the Westfield Public Library (Book Sale)

Marcy Lechner, Friends of the Westfield Public Library, announced that the annual book sale would begin on April 25, 2018. Stated that there are a large variety of books for sale and encouraged residents to attend.

Also discussed the Friends of the Westfield Public Library, explaining that it is a volunteer organization comprised of over three hundred (300) members, and encouraged residents to join. Also discussed additional upcoming events sponsored by the Friends of the Westfield Public Library.

Mayor's Remarks

- Congratulated the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce on its 70th anniversary and discussed the celebration which she attended with Councilwoman Mackey. Also congratulated Andrew and Jeffrey Arkin of Adlers Jewelers, and Dave Williams of Williams Nursery, who were recipients of the Founders Award. Explained that this award is presented to businesses with a successful longevity and that have an impact on the community;
- Extended her thanks to BRAKES for hosting the Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast which she attended. Also thanked the crossing guards for their work and dedication in guiding Westfield's children safely to and from school;
- Thanked the 3rd grade Brownie Troop from Washington School for visiting her in Town Hall. Feels they asked some great questions regarding how government works;
- Informed residents that she hosted her first meeting for all downtown business merchants. Feels the meeting was very productive and well received, and explained that the purpose was to obtain suggestions on how the Town could best support its downtown business merchants and to create a forum for future communication and collaboration;
- Announced that she was interviewed by several students and commended 8th graders, Duke Edmondson and Jordan Ives from Roosevelt's Rough Rider, 8th grader Emmy Wheatley, who was writing about leadership, and by 5th grader Alex Nurnberg for Scholastic;
- Congratulated the Green Team and its liaison, Councilman David Contract, for a successful Earth Day weekend that included park cleanups, a ceremonial tree planting, and an afternoon of activities and education at the north side train station;
- Also thanked Brad Chananie and Phil Michel who are co-chairing a Senior Advisory Council. Explained that this council is exploring ways to enhance services and support for Westfield's senior citizen community and the people who care for them. The first step would be to survey the community to gain an understanding of needs;
- Provided an update on the status of the turf field project. Explained that Town Planner Don Sammet is finalizing the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Master Plan consultant, which would move forward once the budget is adopted. Recreation Director Don Bogardus would then put together an RFQ for a Parks Master Plan consultant that would support the overall Master plan process. Also stated that she has had conversations with the Board of Education and Union County to better understand their turf field plans so that all future field capacity is taken into account as the Town develops its field plans. Stated that she spent time with Union County Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados on Friday and reiterated to him that new fields were a priority, and requested the County's assistance in planning and funding any future field initiatives;
- Informed residents that Chairman Granados' assistance was also requested in obtaining Raritan Valley Line peak one seat rides, as well as support for many initiatives involving special needs, seniors, and mental health. Also announced that, regarding taxes, Mr. Granados is the first County Freeholder Chairman to commit the County to adhering to the same two (2%) percent cap that is required of municipalities. Stated that Mr. Granados also informed her that the County's tax rate increase would be 1.75% this year, the lowest in recent memory;
- Announced that the Town Council would be voting on the adoption of the 2018 Municipal budget this evening. Stated that this budget delivers the lowest tax rate in

decades. Feels this, combined with a historically low County rate, is good news for Westfield taxpayers;

- Discussed the primary objectives of the budget being voted on as follows:
 - Minimize tax burden on residents over the short and long-term;
 - Invest wisely in people, processes and infrastructure that would enable the Town to deliver better residential services and grow non-property tax revenues over time;
 - Create a smarter, more efficient government over the medium-term that would enable the Town to “do more with less”;
 - Improve the downtown economic climate;

- Dispelled misinformation that recently appeared in the press, and in questions that were received as follows:
 - Stated that this budget does not “grow our government”, but includes funding for one (1) incremental part-time position, a Public Information Officer, that was not previously approved by the Council;
 - Explained that the Town is using consultants to benefit from expertise currently not available in-house. Further explained that in this category, the most notable consultant fee is for a \$120,000 feasibility study to assess relocating or renovating the firehouse, an expense which was approved unanimously by Council;
 - Acknowledged that expenses are increasing, and stated that there is a need to provide the Town’s dedicated employees with raises. The Town also needs to fund non-discretionary cost increases, and cited pensions and insurance as examples. In addition, explained that the Town is accelerating some one-time capital expenses by investing in technology, roads, and equipment in order to deliver better services to residents over time;
 - Explained that the Town is also saving money and explained that the open RFQ process for services that was conducted netted over \$90,000 in savings. The Town has also reduced equipment maintenance costs by \$80,000, which should continue to decline with the purchase of additional equipment. The Town was also able to offset \$130,000 in police car purchases through an increased revenue line created by police services to utilities and contractors;
 - Discussed the use of \$4.2 million of the Town’s \$14.5 million surplus, explaining that she feels residents should not be overtaxed to build up an excessively large “rainy day fund” that would “sit” in an account collecting .75% interest. Feels those funds should be used for road paving, tree trimming, improving technology, and enhancing communication. Also feels the Town could invest in its maintenance and services while maintaining a \$10 million in reserve;

- Stated that she is grateful to the previous administration for steering the Town through the financial crisis in 2009 and returning it to sound financial footing. Feels that since there is now a low interest rate environment, the Town should invest, as surrounding towns have done with visible results. Also stated that she could not be prouder of the budget that is being considered tonight and extended her thanks to Finance Chair Councilwoman Linda Habgood for her efforts with the budget. Also stated that she is grateful to Councilpersons Stokes, Neylan, and Contract for their work on the Finance Committee, and for the many hours they devoted to the process. Stated that she is hopeful that everyone could look beyond partisan politics and do what is best for residents by voting to approve this budget tonight.

APPOINTMENTS

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

“GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2104 – AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 14 (HOME OCCUPATIONS) OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD TO ENACT A NEW SECTION

REGULATING AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD.”

Advertised returnable this evening.

The Town Clerk announced that General Ordinance No. 2104 was referred to the Westfield Planning Board as required by law. The Planning Board made several recommendations and further review of this ordinance is necessary. As such, the public hearing would not be held.

“2018 SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET.”

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

“2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.”

Advertised returnable this evening.

Morgan O’Brien, St. Mark’s Avenue, stated that he is supportive of some use of surplus, but objects to the amount that is being used. Discussed pension, debt service, and other operating expenses. Feels these costs will continue to increase, specifically pensions, and believes using \$4.2 million in surplus is too ambitious. Feels only half of this amount should be used.

Liz Mulholland, 1029 Harding Street, stated that she attended the State budget hearings and attempted to request an increase in state aid for Westfield as mentioned during a previous Town Council meeting.

Ms. Mulholland also discussed the capital improvements proposed and her support for the 2018 Municipal Budget. Addressed comments concerning the use of surplus and stated that she conducted research on this issue. Discussed the percentage amount of surplus used in recent years and stated that the amount of surplus proposed for use in the 2018 Municipal Budget is a lower percentage than the amount used in 2017. Also discussed the tax levy rate and expressed concern with the amount of surplus collected, as she feels residents might have been overtaxed. Also expressed concern with retaining a large amount of surplus.

Greg Kasko, Everson Place, thanked the Town Council and Finance Policy Committee for their efforts with the budget. Discussed historical information concerning the use of surplus that is available online. Also stated that he has attended Town Council meetings since 2010 and this is the first time residents have attended a meeting to express concern with the amount of surplus being used. Discussed the amount of surplus used in the annual budget dating back to 2010 and stated that he does not understand the opposition to the amount being used for 2018 Municipal Budget.

Karen Salemme, Clark Street, expressed concern with the proposed Public Information Officer’s position. Feels communication has been handled well and provided examples of the Town’s communication to residents. Feels surplus should be used for items such as increased staffing in the Police Department, due to the increase in vehicle break-ins, park renovations, or to decrease taxes.

Lisa O’Dwyer, 20 South Wickom Drive, stated that she has had conversations with different residents and many feel that the Town’s technology and communication have improved since January 1, 2018. Also stated that she is very impressed with the projected budget increase and the plan to expedite road improvements. Discussed Downtown Westfield as it exists today versus when she first moved to Town and feels improvements are needed. Expressed her support for the proposed 2018 Municipal Budget.

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

PENDING BUSINESS**BIDS****MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilman LoGrippo and seconded by Councilman Contract, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Conference Session & Regular Meeting held April 10, 2018.

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.

Lisa Bertone, East Broad Street, discussed Kevin and Avonte's Law, which is named in honor of two (2) children with autism who passed after they wandered away. Explained that this legislation aims to safeguard individuals who have autism or other conditions that may cause them to wander away from caregivers. Informed the Mayor and Council that her nephew has severe autism and she feels this law is needed. Extended her thanks to Senator Kean for supporting the bill. Also extended her thanks to Councilwoman Neylan for her support of this legislation.

Councilwoman Neylan thanked Ms. Bertone for the acknowledgement. Discussed Kevin and Avonte's Law and grant programs that would be available to local law enforcement agencies. Discussed her support for these programs and requested Council's support through adoption of a resolution.

Councilwoman Mackey thanked Ms. Bertone and Councilwoman Neylan for their efforts with Kevin and Avonte's Law and discussed her support for the bill and the Town's participation in these grant programs.

Shawn Smith, 317 Marlboro Street, requested information concerning disposal of storm debris. Explained that he was required to purchase a permit for the Conservation Center to dispose of storm debris, which was not required in the past, and when he attempted to dispose of the debris at the Conservation Center, staff informed him that it was not allowed.

The Town Administrator discussed the disposal of storm debris and informed residents that an update was provided via Facebook Live at 9:00 AM this morning. Explained that a one-time pickup of debris, which began on March 7, is in progress, and today marks the 20th day of collection. Explained that there have been some delays with collection due to other storms and the need to reallocate Department of Public Works (DPW) staff to other projects. Discussed the zone to be completed by the week's end on the south side of Town. Once completed, DPW would supplement crews working on the north side. Also explained that residents are leaving items in the roadway that are not storm debris, such as leaves and spring cleanup debris, and informed residents that DPW would not be collecting those items. Further explained that this is a one-time pickup and DPW would not be doing another pickup once each zone is complete. Also referred to Councilman LoGrippo's question during the April 10, 2018 Regular Meeting concerning Conservation Center Permits. Explained that because Conservation Center employees cannot differentiate between debris that is from the storm or from spring cleanup, a permit is now required for disposal of storm debris.

The Town Administrator also addressed complaints by residents that pickup is taking more time than the pickup that occurred after Superstorm Sandy and explained that the pickup after Superstorm Sandy took forty (40) days to complete. Also requested that residents refrain from leaving debris in the roadway if pickup in their zone has already been completed. Mentioned that curbside pickup is usually not allowed in Town because of issues that are created, such as clogged storm drains.

Lastly, the Town Administrator informed residents that the Town's website is updated daily as to the status of debris pickup, and that there is free mulch and free firewood available to residents at the Conservation Center.

Councilman Contract informed residents that the pickup schedule is by zone, not by ward, and the schedule is the same schedule used for leaf collection.

Greg Kasko, Everson Place, referenced a previous comment to use surplus to increase staffing within the Police Department. Stated that Police Department staffing decreased several years ago but has since been returned to a full staffing level. Feels vehicle break-ins have increased because residents do not lock their cars.

Mr. Kasko also discussed issues and concerns within the past few years expressed by certain residents, and stated that these residents requested his assistance with these issues. He attended Town Council meetings to advise the Mayor and Council of these issues and was directed to file an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request. Feels these issues were not addressed and he was then criticized for wasting staff time because of the number of OPRA requests he filed.

In addition, Mr. Kasko discussed a Town Council meeting he attended earlier this year in which he informed the Mayor and Council of an issue with trenching in the roadway by a utility company. Stated that shortly after that meeting, Councilman Contract contacted him and subsequently met with him. Also stated that he contacted Mayor Brindle concerning speed bumps on Windsor Avenue and received a response from both Mayor Brindle and Councilman Dardia. He has also been contacted by Councilman LoGrippo. Feels these are examples that demonstrate an improvement in communication. Also feels incumbent councilmembers, such as Councilman Stokes, have become more outspoken and involved since January 1, and believes this is because of the new mayor and councilmembers.

Councilman Arena referred to Mr. Kasko's comments concerning OPRA requests and stated that Mr. Kasko filed those requests because he had a personal issue with the former mayor and certain members of the professional staff, and that he did not file them to assist residents as he indicated.

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

BILLS AND CLAIMS

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$495,356.75 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, Chairman of the Finance Policy Committee, and seconded by Councilman Contract, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 90

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Lisa Spinelli 45 Moss Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	#195	Refund / Pool Membership Family 4 or Less In- Town	\$380.00
Carol Healey 619 Carleton Road Westfield, NJ 07090	#195	Refund / Pool Membership Marital Partners In-Town	\$280.00

Resolution No. 91

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the following persons, this amount being overpaid for 2018:

Block/Lot/Qualifier Name	Property Address	Quarter/Year Amount
5716/8 KONYVES, Jeremy & Stephanie	1519 Central Avenue	Sewer/2017 \$165.00
1304/18 CASIERE, David R.	550 Sherwood Parkway	1 st /2018 \$4,005.83

Resolution No. 92

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.19, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized and directed to draw a warrant in the sum of \$13,900.00 to the TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY for the first quarter Construction Official's State permit fees for 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said check be forward to the Division of Codes and Standards, Department of Community Affairs, CN 802, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0802.

Resolution No. 93

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield has resolved to join both the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund, following a detailed analysis and has been a member since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of said funds require that each municipality appoint a Risk Management Consultant to perform various professional services as detailed in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield solicited requests for proposals for such services in accordance with G.O. 1753 of the Town of Westfield; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws indicate that the commission rate shall not exceed six percent (6%) of the Member's Annual Assessment; and

WHEREAS, Amalgamated General Agencies made a proposal to perform such services outlined for two and one-half percent (2.5%) of annual assessment as was retained for the first two months of 2018 and Brown and Brown made a proposal to perform such services outlined for two percent (2%) of the annual assessment and has been retained until December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the aforesaid Fund require that when a municipality will pay the Risk Management Consultant less than the recommended 6% commission the municipality will make payment for such professional services directly to the Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield has received the sum of \$33,961.18 drawn on the Administration and Expense Account of the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund which represents the first half of the 2018 installment of the six percent (6%) annual Risk Management Assessment; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer of the Town of Westfield be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to draw warrants to the order of Amalgamated General Agencies (AGA), 115 Grove Street East, PO Box 2670, Westfield,

NJ 07090-2670, in the sum of \$4,716.13 representing its two months of service, and to Brown and Brown, 56 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068 in the sum of \$7,546.92 representing its four months of service for the year 2018, with \$21,698.13 representing the reduction in the first half of the annual assessment.

Resolution No. 94

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services issued Local Finance Notice Number 92-15 on July 8, 1992 which requires municipalities to prepare a Corrective Action Plan covering all findings and recommendations in the annual audit report; and

WHEREAS, it is required that the plan be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and approved by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Audit Report on the Financial Statements of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey for the year ended December 31, 2017 prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company, Certified Public Accountants, stated that there were no recommendations for corrective action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since the Recommendation page of the 2017 Audit stated “none”, the Town of Westfield will not be filing a copy of a Corrective Action Plan with the Division of Local Government Services for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Resolution No. 95

BE IT RESOLVED that as attestation of compliance has been provided pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-8 (1a) and (1b) the 2018 Municipal Budget may be read by title.

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, Chairman of the Finance Policy Committee, and seconded by Councilman Arena, was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Resolution No. 96

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, that the Special Improvement District Budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations and authorization of the amount of

\$416,347.00 for Special Improvement District Purposes

Recorded vote:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays:	Absent:
Arena		
Dardia		
Neylan		
LoGrippo		
Contract		
Stokes		
Mackey		
Mayor Brindle		

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood, Chairman of the Finance Policy Committee, and seconded by Councilman Arena, was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Resolution No. 97

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$27,975,396.02 (Item 2, below) for municipal purposes, and \$2,571,941.25

(Item 3, below) for Minimum Library Levy and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations:

1. General Revenues	
Surplus Anticipated	\$4,200,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	12,413,889.73
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	1,050,000.00
2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes	27,975,396.02
3. Amount to be Raised by Taxation - Minimum Library Levy	<u>2,571,941.25</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$48,211,227.00</u>
4. General Appropriations	
Within "CAPS"	
Operating including Contingent	29,462,029.09
Deferred Charges	3,860,819.00
Excluded from "CAPS"	
Operations	7,466,718.91
Capital Improvements	1,725,000.00
Municipal Debt Service	3,116,660.00
Deferred Charges-Municipal	190,000.00
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	2,390,000.00
Total General Appropriations	<u>\$48,211,227.00</u>

Town Council Comments

Councilwoman Neylan stated that she feels insulted by Mr. Kasko's comment that she has become more involved just because of the new mayor, as she feels she has been involved all along. Also expressed concern with the conduct of those in attendance during recent Town Council meetings. Feels behavior has been rude and residents should not feel intimidated to speak because of a possible reaction and bullying by those in the audience.

Councilwoman Neylan also discussed her concerns with the proposed budget, stating that it is higher than the rate of inflation. Also expressed concern with the proposed road consultant and the associated cost. Discussed interest arbitration and the potential impact to the budget moving forward. Lastly, expressed concern with the process, stating that while information was provided via email, it was not brought to the Finance Policy Committee. Explained that for these reasons, she would be voting against the adoption of the budget.

Councilman Arena expressed his concern with the budget. Referred to comments concerning rising pension costs, and discussed the budget crisis being faced in Long Beach, New York. Feels municipalities need to be fiscally responsible to avoid facing this type of situation. Also expressed concern with the Green Team survey and the cost trend that could result. In addition, discussed the decrease in court revenue realized for the 1st quarter of 2018. Explained that these are all areas of concern for him and, for these reasons, he would be voting against adoption of the 2018 Municipal Budget.

Councilwoman Habgood referred to Councilwoman Neylan's comment concerning the budget process and stated that she was agreeable and supportive of conducting Finance Policy Committee meetings. Also referred to Councilman Arena's comments concerning the Green Team. Feels a trend is not being set and explained that the survey is being conducted by volunteers in an effort to gain feedback from residents. Also requested that, in the future, councilmembers share their budget concerns prior to the vote for budget adoption.

Councilman Contract stated that the cost associated with the Green Team is nominal. Also addressed concerns expressed with revenue generation and stated that for the past six (6) years, the amount of revenue generated has exceeded the amount projected. Stated that he supports the budget because it allows the Town to move forward with improvements that were requested by

residents. Also mentioned that the amount of surplus being used does not impact the Town's bond rating.

Councilwoman Neylan stated that revenue was conservatively anticipated in prior budgets, which is why the amount generated exceeded projections.

Mayor Brindle discussed the use of surplus for certain capital improvements and explained that if the Town does not regenerate surplus as anticipated, it does not need to move forward with certain capital improvements in 2019.

Councilwoman Habgood discussed revenue related to the leasing of police vehicles.

Councilman LoGrippe stated that he would support the budget, but expressed concern with the Public Information Officer's position. Feels communication has been done well and was better during the recent storms than some municipalities with a Public Information Officer. Feels communication is a function of the mayor and councilmembers to communicate with residents.

Mayor Brindle explained that a Public Information Officer is a common position in many municipalities and stated that this individual would also be responsible for managing the Town's website and social media pages. Feels this position would take the burden from the Town Administrator, as residents expect real-time communication, and the Town needs to speak with one voice. Discussed municipalities smaller than Westfield that have a Public Information Officer and feels the position will prove its value over time. Also feels it might result in cost savings over time because it could reduce or eliminate some consultant costs.

Councilman Contract also mentioned that the position would be part-time to start and could be reexamined at year-end.

Councilman Stokes referred to Mr. Kasko's comment concerning certain councilmembers becoming more outspoken since January and feels a strong leader does not need to be outspoken, but should listen to residents. Discussed conversations he has had with residents and feels most do want road improvements, street cleaning and the like, and for this reason, he would be supporting adoption of the budget.

Recorded vote:

Yeas: Habgood
Dardia
LoGrippe
Contract
Stokes
Mackey
Mayor Brindle

Nays: Arena
Neylan

Absent:

Special Ordinance No. 2212:

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

I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, "SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2212 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$3,225,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO APPROPRIATE CAPITAL SURPLUS, 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."

Motion was seconded by Councilman Contract.

Town Council Comments

Councilman Contract discussed Special Ordinance No. 2212 and the items included. Explained that approximately six (6) miles of road paving is included, versus four (4) miles that was

included in capital budget the previous year. Also explained that roads were selected in the most fair and equitable manner possible. This ordinance also includes the cost for a road consultant and pedestrian flashing beacons at various locations.

The Town Administrator announced that the list of roads included in the 2018 paving program would be posted to the Town's website. Also announced that Special Ordinance No. 2212 is scheduled for adoption on May 8, 2018, and an award of contract for these projects is expected in June.

Councilwoman Neylan asked the Town Administrator to explain the difference between a HAWK light and a flashing pedestrian beacon.

The Town Administrator stated that two (2) HAWK lights currently exist in Town, with one located at Central Avenue, and the other at North Avenue by Lord and Taylor. Explained that HAWK lights are signals that are positioned across the road and are activated by pedestrians. A flashing beacon is a lighted crosswalk, and does not have a signal positioned across the road. Mentioned that flashing beacons are also activated by pedestrians.

Councilman LoGrippe expressed concern with the roads selected for paving. Feels there is a disparity between those selected within each ward.

Councilman Contract explained that the roads were selected based upon the length of the roadway, not the cost, and the roads that were selected were prioritized by the Town Engineer to be in the greatest need of paving.

The Town Administrator explained that the amount of roadway selected for paving is also based upon the amount that could be achieved from an actual and financial perspective. More than six (6) miles of roadway were considered for paving, but it was determined that six (6) miles of roadway could be realistically achieved within the calendar year from a construction and financial perspective.

Councilman Stokes requested that the Town Administrator discuss the process for curb and sidewalk improvements.

The Town Administrator explained that curbs are the responsibility of the property owner, and that residents may file a petition with the Town to include curb improvements when a roadway is being paved. Acknowledged that this process is not actively advertised because it significantly increases the cost and time involved to complete road improvements. Discussed roadways that have been scheduled for curb replacement because residents submitted petitions and explained that these residents would be assessed the cost for curbs. Also discussed the process related to sidewalk improvements/replacement.

Councilwoman Habgood referred to the Town Administrator's comments concerning curb and sidewalk improvements and stated that the next two (2) ordinances scheduled for introduction, Special Ordinance Nos. 2213 and 2214, are assessment ordinances related to curb and sidewalk improvements.

The Town Administrator provided clarification concerning Special Ordinance No. 2213 and stated that it includes costs for paving and curbing, but only the cost for curbing would be assessed to residents.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays:	Absent:
Arena		
Dardia		
Neylan		
LoGrippe		
Contract		
Stokes		
Mackey		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, Special Ordinance No. 2212 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 8th day of May 2018 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. 2213:

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

I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, "SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2213 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CURBING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CURBING ON WALNUT STREET AND THE APPROPRIATION OF MONIES NECESSARY THEREFOR."

Motion was seconded by Councilman Stokes.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays:	Absent:
Arena		
Dardia		
Neylan		
LoGrippo		
Contract		
Stokes		
Mackey		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, Special Ordinance No. 2213 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 8th day of May 2018 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. 2214:

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

I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, "SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2214 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALK AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIDEWALK AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE TOWN AND THE APPROPRIATION OF MONIES NECESSARY THEREFOR."

Motion was seconded by Councilman LoGrippo.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays:	Absent:
Arena		
Dardia		
Neylan		
LoGrippo		
Contract		
Stokes		
Mackey		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, Special Ordinance No. 2214 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 8th day of May 2018 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

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilwoman Mackey, Chairman of the Code Review & Town Property Committee, and seconded by Councilman LoGrippo, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 98

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 24 Article VII Section 24-47 of the Town Code the Town Council has authorized the licensing of Sidewalk Cafés, and

WHEREAS, the establishments listed have made application as required by Sec. 24-48 of the Town Code, and

WHEREAS, the establishments listed have met all the terms and conditions as required,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Westfield hereby grants licenses to the establishments listed to operate sidewalk cafés and the Town Clerk be, and is hereby authorized to issue said licenses.

1958 Cuban Cuisine	301 South Avenue West
Ahrre's Coffee Roastery	104 Elm Street
Northside Kitchen	360 Prospect Street
Qdoba Mexican Grill	70 Elm Street
Spice Bazaar	114-116 Quimby Street
Splash of Thai	321 South Avenue West
Starbucks Coffee	117 Central Avenue
Turning Point of Westfield	137 Central Avenue

Resolution No. 99

RESOLVED that the following application for children's amusement devices be approved:

Seashore Amusements	Westfield Spring Fling	Jackie Sieb
11 Hendry Lane	May 6, 2018	11 Hendry Lane
Brick, NJ 08723	Broad Street	Brick, NJ 08723

Public Works Committee

Councilman Contract announced that a Green Team survey, which was designed to identify the interest of residents, is posted to the Town's website. Also extended his thanks to the Green Team for its efforts with Earth Day activities.

Reports of Department Heads

Report of David C. Wayman, Chief of the Police Department, showing fee collecting in the amount of \$3,812.20 during the month of March 2018.

Report of Carol Salvaggio, Certified Court Administrator, stating that she had turned over to the Chief Financial Officer check in the amount of \$47,411.22 representing fines and costs collected

in the Municipal Court and Violations Bureau during the month of March 2018 was received, read and ordered filed.

Report of Steve Freedman, Construction Official, showing monies collected for permits in the amount of \$66,135.00 for the month of March 2018 was received, read and ordered filed.

Town Council Comments

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilman LoGrippe and seconded by Councilman Arena at 9:36 p.m., was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk