

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, September 22, 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, LoGrippe, 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

Administrator's Update

- Reminded residents that the Green Team's Free Market event is scheduled for this coming Saturday, September 26, 2020, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the southside train station parking lot. Mentioned that the event was originally planned for April but was rescheduled for September and that additional information is available on the Town's website;
- Commended the Recreation Department staff for their efforts with the 2020 pool season. Mentioned that the season ended on September 20, 2020. Extended a special thanks to Heather Re, Assistant Recreation Director, for her efforts, as well as the pool staff and members. Feels it was a clean and safe environment and thanked the members for joining and being responsible. Feels it was a great season despite the circumstances;
- Announced that new benches are being installed at Mindowaskin Park with funds raised by the Friends of Mindowaskin Park. Discussed the volunteer and fundraising efforts of the Friends of Mindowaskin Park and the enhancements that continue in the park.
- Announced that 4th quarter reconciled tax bills would be mailed next week. Explained that estimated tax bills were sent in July for August payments because Union County had not yet certified the tax rate. The final 4th quarter tax bills were pushed back further this year but would be mailed no later than September 30 and would include 3rd quarter payment amounts, which have already been paid, as well as the 4th quarter 2020, and the 1st and 2nd quarter 2021 payment information.

Councilman LoGrippe requested an update on the crossing guard program and stated that residents have expressed concern with the reduction in posts/crossing guards.

The Town Administrator explained that the program was restructured and reallocated due to guards not returning, retirements and the change in the school schedule because of the pandemic. Stated that some questions have been raised with respect to the program and the Police Department has been responding to those questions. Believes most residents have been satisfied with the Police Department's response to their questions and discussed the change in posts on Mountain Avenue as an example. Feels that despite the changes, the program seems to be working well at this point.

Councilman LoGrippe requested that the reduction in posts along Central Avenue be monitored.

Mayor's Remarks:

- Thanked those who joined the meeting virtually and reminded all that public comment would only be accepted via Zoom, with live streaming for viewing only on Facebook. A replay of the meeting would also be available on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36;
- Provided an update of COVID-19 and announced that today there were 200,580 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 326 still under investigation. Union County has reported 17,505 cases in total, with Westfield reporting four new cases since the last update on Friday (one on Sunday, one on Monday, and two today), bringing Westfield's total to 389 since its first reported case in March;

- Announced that Governor Murphy has re-added Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Wyoming to the list of states included in New Jersey's travel advisory. There are now 35 states on the list, which can be viewed in full at covid19.nj.gov/travel. Also announced that the NJ Department of Human Services opened up the window for the new COVID-19 child-care tuition assistance program yesterday. Families with children ages 5-13 and incomes of up to \$75,000 a year can apply online at ChildCareNJ.gov.
- Reminded citizens that today is National Voter Registration Day. The deadline to register to vote in New Jersey for the upcoming General Election is October 13. Encouraged all to visit nj.gov/state/elections to register or to confirm registration. Explained that since this will be primarily a vote by mail election in New Jersey, feels it's important for everyone to have complete information about this process. Also encouraged all residents to visit the Union County Board of Elections website, which provides details about registration, ballot drop boxes, mail-in ballots, voting in-person by provisional ballot, and more. As a reminder, there will be a secure ballot drop box located at the Fraser building on North Avenue. Please review the information at www.ucnj.org/boe to familiarize yourself with all procedures and related deadlines.
- Discussed the reported home invasion and assault early this morning on Park Street and informed residents that the Police Chief has reported that this does not appear to be a random act, and that there is no ongoing threat to the community following the arrest of four individuals. Extended her thanks to Officers Bagan, DiBella, Popleik, Santangelo, and Shaughnessy for their swift response to what was potentially a very dangerous call. Stated that everyone is very grateful for their exceptional work and, above all, their safety. Asked residents to keep today's victims in their thoughts as they recover from their injuries;
- Discussed Brightwood Park, stating that everyone wants to save Brightwood Park from years of neglect which has resulted in unsafe and damaging bike trails that currently exist in the park, as well as an abundance of invasive species that has destroyed much of the original natural habitat. Stated that she is thrilled with the attention that the bike trail discussion has brought to Brightwood, and the outpouring of interest from many residents in improving the park. Thanked those that organized the Friends of Brightwood and commended them for their recent cleanup efforts. Announced that there is another cleanup scheduled by the Green Team for October 11 for those who would like to participate. The sign up is available at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4facaf2aa3fe3-earth2>. Assured residents that there is no plan to move forward on any changes to Brightwood, bike trails or otherwise, without doing required due diligence with the NJ DEP and Green Acres. Once that information has been obtained, which would take time, all can all work together to discuss the best path forward for enhancing and beautifying the park to ensure it is safe and accessible for all residents. Explained that, as a result, she does not anticipate any additional discussion on potential enhancements to Brightwood for at least six months;
- Discussed General Ordinance No. 2193 to be heard on first reading, which provides for the implementation of the Five-Year Tax Exemption and Abatement Law. This ordinance amends the tax abatement previously implemented for the Downtown's Special Improvement District and will expand it to include historically designated properties within the Town. As a companion to the recently passed Historic Preservation ordinance, this approach allows the Town to implement the feedback received concerning tax incentives for qualifying historic properties. Explained that incentivizing homeowners to voluntarily designate their historic home continues to be the primary goal and focus of the Historic Preservation Commission, and she is pleased that this ordinance can provide some additional assistance to further that cause;
- Reminded everyone that she would once again be enforcing Robert's Rules this evening to ensure the meeting stays on topic and runs efficiently. Any comments that are not relevant to the particular business at hand should be deferred to after Council committee reports and not in this meeting. The public would be allowed to comment during the public comment portion but can speak only once on a particular topic. Explained that she has an obligation to manage the Council meetings and will do all that she can to ensure that all stay on topic this evening. Thanked everyone for their engagement on the issues that matter to all.

APPOINTMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2189

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REVISING THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SITE PLAN AND PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

Advertised returnable this evening.

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

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2190

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AMENDING THE EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

Advertised returnable this evening.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Brindle declared the hearing closed.

PENDING BUSINESS

An ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2189 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REVISING THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SITE PLAN AND PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS" by Councilwoman Mackey, seconded by Councilman Contract, was taken up, read and **amended** by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

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

An ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2189 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REVISING THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SITE PLAN AND PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS." by Councilwoman Mackey, seconded by Councilman Boyes, was taken up, read and passed **as amended** by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

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

An ordinance entitled, "GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2190 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AMENDING THE EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE." 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: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmelee		
LoGrippe		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Boyes		
Mayor Brindle		

BIDS

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Contract and seconded by Councilman LoGrippe, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Executive & Regular Meeting held September 8, 2020.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

OPEN DISCUSSION BY CITIZENS

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

Amy Doll, 21 Azalea Trail, thanked Councilman LoGrippe for mentioning the crosswalk at Central Avenue. Stated that she is a Jefferson School parent and has been walking her children to school for the past 3 weeks. Expressed concern that motorists go through the light at Central Avenue and Clover Street without stopping and feels there should be a crossing guard at that location. Feels it is a busy street and is not far from the location where a child was killed while crossing. Feels kids should not be crossing this street alone.

Mayor Brindle stated that the Police Department would be reviewing all posts and asked if the Police Sergeant contacted her in response to her concern.

Ms. Doll stated that the Police Sergeant did contact her, but it seems there is no intention to add a crossing guard to that location. Instead, the Police Department would be periodically monitoring the intersection to determine if motorists are going through the light without stopping.

Sherry Hines, 28 Stoneleigh Park, discussed General Ordinance No. 2194 which pertains to tax abatements. Referred to Mayor Brindles comments in which she indicated that this ordinance would apply to historic homes in an effort to incentivize homeowners to pursue historic designation. Feels the ordinance, as it currently reads, would apply to developers constructing mixed use structures. Believes bidding for these projects would not be required and questioned where the mixed-use structures would be located. Expressed concern with the designation of the entire Town as an area in need of rehabilitation because she feels it would "open the flood gates" for tax abatements for any developer who builds a mixed-use development along the train station, the Town parking lots, or any other location within the designated area. Also stated that she does not understand the need for more retail because retail businesses are not thriving due to the increase in online shopping.

Councilman LoGrippe mentioned that it is the 8 municipal parking lots that have been designated as an area in need of redevelopment.

Mayor Brindle reminded all that this portion of the meeting is for general public comment and should be limited to residents' comments.

Ms. Hines stated that while she understands that this is the public comment portion of the meeting, residents are not provided with answers to their questions when comments are limited to residents only. Feels General Ordinance No. 2194 would provide tax abatements for more than historic properties only and feels clarification should be provided. Also feels there should be an explanation as to why the Town is considering more retail and mixed-use development. Referred

to comments comparing Westfield to Metuchen and disagreed with that comparison. Feels the Town is attempting to “turn Westfield into South Orange” and discussed the rehabilitation designation that occurred in South Orange.

Kerry Murphy, 502 Coddling Road, referred to Ms. Hines’ comments and feels someone should answer her questions. Feels it would be helpful if answers were provided either during this meeting or in writing as a follow up.

The Town Attorney explained that questions by the public are generally addressed after the close of the public comment period.

Mayor Brindle asked Ms. Murphy to clarify as to whether she has a comment or a question. Explained that this period is for public comment only and most comments or questions are addressed after the public comment portion of the meeting is closed.

Ms. Murphy reiterated her prior comment and believes Ms. Hines’ questions should be answered at some point.

Ms. Murphy also discussed the upcoming election and asked if someone would be requesting identification at the drop boxes. Stated that identification is required at polling locations and questioned whether that requirement would apply to the drop boxes too.

The Town Attorney explained that identification is not required at polling locations and it is not permissible under State law for anyone to request identification before allowing someone to vote.

The Town Administrator explained that Union County oversees the voting process. While the upcoming election would primarily be a vote by mail elections, in-person voting would be allowed and drop boxes for ballots would be available. More information would be available on the Town’s website once all information has been finalized by Union County.

Greg Kasko, 434 Everson Place, stated that he has never been required to show identification in order to vote, but poll workers do ask for name and address verification before the voter signs the poll book.

Mr. Kasko also referenced comments concerning the elimination of the crossing guard post at Central Avenue and Clover Street. Stated that this was the intersection in which a light was supposed to be placed but was instead placed in front of a residence. Feels the fact that this light is located mid-block in front of a residence caused confusion to drivers and discussed accidents that occurred at that location when the light was first installed. Explained that this light was installed to facilitate crossing for schools. Also referenced the previous speaker’s comment concerning the child who was killed crossing Central Avenue and stated that the circumstances were different because that accident occurred in the evening, not during school hours, and was further down Central Avenue. Feels now might be an appropriate time for the Town to request that Union County move the light from in front of that residence to the intersection. Stated that the Union County Engineer indicated that there were remaining budget funds to move the light to the intersection.

Page Johnson, 700 Boulevard, requested clarification as to whether or not the Town intends to install a fence at Mindowaskin playground. Stated that while it is a wonderful playground that she visits frequently, expressed concern with children’s safety due to the road that runs through the park and the lack of fencing around the playground area.

Mayor Brindle thanked Ms. Johnson for her comments and explained that it would be addressed once the public comment period has closed.

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

Mayor Brindle addressed the public comments and questions raised, beginning with the rehabilitation area designation. Explained that redevelopment designations and rehabilitation designations are very separate and distinct tools with different goals. The area in need of rehabilitation designation for downtown properties was done to incentivize downtown property owners to improve their properties. This same tool is also being used for historically designated homes. Also mentioned that her reference to Metuchen was related to its historic designation of homes and its downtown. In addition, explained that mixed-use and retail development relates to

redevelopment sites, but no redevelopment plans exist at this point for any of the sites designated as redevelopment areas. Once it is determined what will exist on those sites, the Town would be working with potential developers and property owners, such as Lord and Taylor, to determine what would work best on that site and what is in the best interest of the community. Reiterated that no plans exist, and once created, public input would be solicited.

Mayor Brindle also discussed comments related to the upcoming election and stated that she has been voting by mail since Governor Christie allowed early voting. Explained that identification is not required when voting by mail and she feels comfortable with the process and the drop boxes provided for the return of ballots.

The Town Attorney reminded all that in-person voting via a provisional ballot would be allowed for the upcoming election.

Mayor Brindle added that voters could also hand deliver their vote by mail ballot to their polling location on Election Day.

Mayor Brindle addressed Mr. Kasko's comments with respect to the light on Central Avenue and stated that the Town is in the process of creating a circulation plan and she has asked the vendor to pay special attention to the Central Avenue corridor and that light to determine if it is in the appropriate location, relative to the other circulation elements being reviewed for the entire Town.

Lastly, Mayor Brindle addressed Ms. Johnson's comments concerning the playground at Mindowaskin Park. Explained that the Town has requested that the Recreation Commission review this issue, and if a fence is recommended, funding would be considered in the 2021 Municipal Budget. In the meantime, the Town had installed landscaping around the playground to make it safe.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$216,729.19 per the list submitted to the members of this Council by the Chief Financial Officer, and approved for payment by the Town Administrator be, and the same are hereby, approved and that payroll warrants previously issued by the Chief Financial Officer be ratified.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Policy Committee.

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

Resolution No. 210

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>
Mary Flaherty 233 Elizabeth Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	T-05-600-071 Tennis/Rec Sports Clinics	Refund Track / Fall 2020 Switched from 12 to 8 clinics Caden Flaherty	\$50.00

Resolution No. 211

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be, and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the following persons, these amounts being overpaid for 2020:

<u>Block/Lot/Qualifier</u>	<u>Quarter/Year</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Property Address</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
806/7	734 Coleman Place
SHABINAW, Kenneth A & Donna A	3 rd /2020
	\$3,649.15

Check payable and mail to:
Signature Closing Services LLC
Attn: Kelli Burdge
520 Speedwell Avenue, Suite 103
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

4809/10 932 Grandview Avenue 3rd/2020
SOHRABI, Mahmood & Rostami, Roya \$2,895.17

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee

Code Review & Town Property Committee

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

Resolution No. 212

BE IT RESOLVED that application for the following liquor license renewals for the 2020-2021 licensing term be and hereby are granted, subject to full compliance with Alcoholic Beverage Law R.S. 33:1.1 et. seq.:

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE

Parikhs Corporation 781 Central Avenue
t/a Central Avenue Wines & Liquors
2020-44-018-010

Shreeji Holdings, LLC. 115 Quimby Street
2020-44-013-008
t/a Liquor Basket of Westfield

Saamro, LLC 270 North Avenue E.
t/a Westfield Wine & Liquor
2020-44-017-011

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE

Prospect Associates, LLC 16 Prospect Street
t/a 16 Prospect Wine Bar and Bistro
2020-33-015-010

HBC US Propco Holdings, LLC inactive
2020-33-001-009

RESTAURANT CONDITIONAL LICENSES

DU International, LLC 102 East Broad Street
t/a Akai Lounge
2020-33-005-007

Sweet Waters, Inc. 43 Elm Street
t/a Sweet Waters Steak House
2020-33-022-005

CLUB LICENSE

Italian American Club 505 Central Avenue
2020-31-021-001

Centennial Lodge #400 IBPOE 444 West Broad Street
2020-31-020-001

American Legion Incorporated 1003 North Avenue West
Martin Wallberg Post 3
2020-31-019-002

General Ordinance No. 2191

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Mackey made the following announcement:
I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2191 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 20”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyes.

General Ordinance No. 2191 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmalee		
Katz		
LoGrippto		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Beyes		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2191 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 13th day of October 2020 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.

General Ordinance No. 2192

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Mackey made the following announcement:
I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2192 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD TO INCLUDE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE WESTFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT ON DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS”

The motion was seconded by Councilman LoGrippto.

General Ordinance No. 2192 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood	Nays: None	Absent: None
Parmalee		
LoGrippto		
Katz		
Mackey		
Contract		
Dardia		
Beyes		
Mayor Brindle		

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2192 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 13th day of October 2020 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.

General Ordinance No. 2193

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Mackey made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2193 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD BY DEFINING ARTISAN MANUFACTURING AND ESTABLISHING THEM AS A PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USE IN CERTAIN ZONE DISTRICTS”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyes.

General Ordinance No. 2193 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

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

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2193 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 13th day of October 2020 at 8:00 o'clock, p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached, in the Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and that at such time and place or any time and place to which such meeting shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, and that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

Comments:

The Town Administrator thanked the Town Planner for his efforts concerning General Ordinance No. 2193. Explained that many ordinance amendments have been recommended by the Code Review and Town Property Committee and the Town Planner and his staff have been able to generate the changes, in conjunction with the Town Attorney’s office, and turn them around quickly.

Councilwoman Mackey discussed General Ordinance No. 2193 and explained that the Town is attempting to be proactive in attracting different businesses to Downtown Westfield due to the “climate” change with retail. General Ordinance No. 2193 essentially allows for a “maker space” where people could make pottery, jewelry and other crafts. While there is currently no application for artisan manufacturing downtown, the Town would be prepared to allow it through the adoption of this ordinance, should there be an interest.

Mayor Brindle also commended the Town Planner for his exceptional work.

General Ordinance No. 2194

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilwoman Mackey made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2194 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2171 PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD OF THE “FIVE YEAR TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT LAW” PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A: 21-1”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Dardia.

Town Council comments:

Councilman LoGrippo stated that he would be voting against the adoption of General Ordinance No. 2194. Feels he needs a better understanding of the financial impact of the proposed tax abatements.

General Ordinance No. 2194 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Yeas: Habgood
Parmalee
Katz
Mackey
Contract
Dardia
Boyes
Mayor Brindle

Nays: LoGrippto

Absent: None

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2194 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 13th day of October 2020 at 8:00 o'clock, p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached, in the Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and that at such time and place or any time and place to which such meeting shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, and that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

Public Works Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2020 Census

Councilman Parmelee reminded residents of the upcoming deadline of September 30 concerning the 2020 Census and urged all to submit their census questionnaire. Explained that it is important to get an accurate count because it impacts congressional representation and there could also be many benefits to Westfield itself.

Mayor Brindle mentioned that if Westfield's population were to increase by 3,000, it would qualify for a new liquor license.

Lifelong Westfield

Councilman Contract thanked all who were involved with Lifelong Westfield Milestone Awards. Mentioned that there was one additional runner up for Most Consecutive Generations Living in Westfield, the Simone Family, stating that five generations of this family resided not only in Westfield, but on the same street and some within the same house. Feels these awards were a wonderful way to celebrate Westfield's history and extended a special thanks to Brad Chananie, Dierdre Gelinne, Kathy Dulan, and Ron Holmes of the Senior Advisory Council, and Lauren Harmer of the Recreation Department.

Green Team

Councilman Contract discussed the Free Market scheduled for Saturday and explained that because of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, residents were asked to register for the event and all slots have been filled. Walk-ins would be accepted, although there might be a wait because of the need to limit the number of people attending at the same time.

Councilman Contract also discussed the pop-up bike lanes and provided clarification as to the date and time for this event. The Green Team is recommending a pop-up bike lane on October 4, 2020 only, from 12:00 to 4:00 on Prospect Street between Dudley Avenue and Lincoln Road. Also announced that there would be a resident meeting next week via Zoom. Requested that those who would like to participate in the meeting email westfieldbikelanes@gmail.com for the Zoom link. Flyers were also distributed to impacted residents this past weekend. Explained that this is a first step toward implementing some of the recommendations within the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and these bike lanes would be a test to see if they are successful.

Public Works Committee

Councilman Contract discussed a recent meeting of the Public Works Committee at which issues concerning storm debris cleanup were discussed. The Public Works Committee is considering

better ways to address clean up issues for future storm events and would be making recommendations to the Town Council in the coming months.

Councilman Contract also discussed leaf collection and informed residents that, in addition to the Town's collection service, there would be a video to introduce new collection methods. This would include a voluntary bagging program in an effort to minimize the number of leaves on the street which creates parking and flooding issues. Also mentioned that the leaf collection brochure would be distributed next month.

Lastly, Councilman Contract discussed the rain garden to be installed at Tamaques Park which is expected to be completed next month.

The Town Administrator added that Rutgers would be involved with the project, but it is on track to be completed in October. Mentioned that a very large garden is planned for the park.

Councilman LoGrippe requested clarification with respect to debris that remains from the last storm and asked if residents should leave it in the road to be picked up during leaf collection.

The Town Administrator explained that DPW has been distributing door hangers at residences where debris has been left in the street that is not Town debris. It is the residents' responsibility to have that debris removed. As to Town debris, residents have been contacting the Town via telephone or through Westfield Connect to advise of Town debris and once confirmed by DPW that it is in fact Town debris, it is removed by DPW. Reminded residents that all debris must be removed prior to leaf collection.

Mayor Brindle congratulated the Fire Chief on his recent marriage.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilman LoGrippe and seconded by Councilman Katz at 9:00 P.M. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk