

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10, 2023**

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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 13, 2022. 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, Councilmembers: Habgood, Parmelee, Katz, Mackey, Contract, Dardia, Root

**ABSENT:** Councilman LoGrippo

Invocation was given by Councilman Contract

Salute to the flag.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

#### **Administrator’s Update**

The Town Administrator announced the 2023 Leaf Collection brochure will be mailed out shortly and the information will also be posted on the Town’s website and social media pages. Since the program had great success last year the Town is going to mirror the same approach. Collection is going to start November 6<sup>th</sup> and go through December 16<sup>th</sup> with the addition of Saturday collections. This enables the crews to collect leaves from areas that are difficult to get to during the week such as school areas. The Town will also be providing free leaf bags at the Conversation Center starting next week. The Town will also be sending out Nixle alerts on the evenings prior to pick up to inform residents to move their vehicles off the street. The Town Administrator thanked the Department of Public Works for their hard work with leaf collection. The Town Administrator encouraged residents to sign up for Nixle alerts and to check the website regularly.

The Town Administrator stated the fourth quarter tax bills have been mailed out and are due on November 1<sup>st</sup> with a ten-day grace period. The Town Administrator thanked residents who have already paid.

The Town Administrator provided an update on road paving. The 2023 Various Road Improvement Project is complete which included all the roads the Town was scheduled to pave this year. There are two state aid projects that are pending including the entire length of Elmer Street and Summit Avenue from Park Street to Clifton Street. The Town is waiting for the approval from the state. The Town will then go out to bid and award a contract to hopefully start in November, depending on weather conditions. The Town has also partnered with Union County to pave East Broad Street from Euclid to North Avenue. As expected, the County has many road paving projects underway, and the Town is waiting on an update to when this project will start. The handicap ramps have already been installed, next is milling, paving, and striping. The Town will advise the public through Nixle and the website on information pertaining to this project. The Town Administrator explained majority of the utility road work has been completed. Some infrastructure work is continuing to take place such as house connections on Coolidge Avenue. Once that’s complete the streets will be set for paving and milling. There has been an extraordinary amount of paving done this year.

Lastly, the Town Administrator discussed the PSE&G 69KV pole project on Central & South Avenues. The Central Avenue project as is a major inconvenience with the road closures. There's two pieces of the project that are working simultaneously. One is the tree work which includes removal and trimmings along the route. The tree removal crews are now in the area of Pearl Street continuing towards South Avenue. All of the tree trimming, and removals must meet the standards set by the BPU to make sure the lines are clear. Department of Public Works Director, Greg O'Neil has been in touch with PSE&G and has traveled the route multiple times with representatives. Some tree removals are necessary, and every one removal is being repaved by two new trees. The Town is working with PSE&G about the types of species that are appropriate for the streetside trees. The new pole installation work is also going on simultaneously, a few blocks down from where the tree is being performed. After poles are set PSE&G will transfer the lines to new poles, followed by Verizon and Comcast, and then the old poles will be removed.

The Town Administrator discussed the detours that are in place due to this project. The Police Chief and Town Administrator spoke with representatives from PSE&G earlier today and requested them to provide more police officers at their expense to help not only the detour itself on Central Avenue but the neighborhoods surrounding the area as traffic is being directed differently each day. The Police Department is doing everything they can to ensure this project goes smoothly and the neighborhoods are safe as it is a major inconvenience.

The Town Administrator noted the section where tree work removals require both sides of the roads to be closed due to the special equipment that is used. They are working from 9:00am to 2:00 pm to avoid the peak travel time in the morning and afternoon. The trimming only requires one side of the street to be closed and that will be happening next week after the removals are finished on the Central Avenue portion. The pole replacement portion also requires two sides of the road being closed and will be from 9:00am to 2:00pm and 3:30pm to 6:00pm each day until the end so the month. The Town Administrator reminded the residents and Council this is expected to be nine-month project from start to finish.

### **Mayor's Update**

Good evening, and thanks to everyone who is joining us both in person and online tonight. As a reminder, public comment will be accepted in person only, and we are live streaming for viewing only. As always, the replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36. Before we discuss tonight's agenda, I'd like to briefly cover a few other issues of public interest.

### **SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL**

First and foremost, the absolute atrocities we have seen unfold in Israel over the past few days are top of mind. We have just come from the vigil at Temple Emanu-El, where the community came together to pray for the people of Israel, as well as for our Jewish friends and neighbors here at home. I want our Jewish community to know that we are here for you, we unequivocally denounce these acts of hatred and terrorism, we stand in solidarity and grief with you, and we will not ever allow anti-semitism to be a part of Westfield. The great people of this town have shown, time and again, under many difficult circumstances, that we hold one another up and we don't tolerate any hate speech or acts of bias. You are in our hearts and our prayers, and we will always continue to advocate for the safety and equality of our entire community.

I have received emails from members of the community regarding public posts made by Board of Education member Sahar Aziz. While this elected body has no oversight of the Board of Education, I do want to make clear that I agree with the many residents who reached out about Ms. Aziz's disturbing and hurtful comments. I believe there is a way to show empathy for the plight of the Palestinian people while also unequivocally condemning the outrageous acts of terrorism being committed against Israel by the terrorist group Hamas. As disturbing as her comments are, however, they are protected by her right to free speech.

Some have suggested that I am somehow responsible for Ms. Aziz being in office, or assisted in some way, which is unequivocally not true. As an elected official, only the voters make that decision. Since this matter is one that can only be addressed by the Board of Education, I won't be making any further public comment beyond what I've expressed tonight.

### **REMEMBERING NORM GRECO**

On another sad note, I'd like to acknowledge the recent passing of Norm Greco, who was not only a lifelong resident of Westfield, but also a successful entrepreneur and, importantly, a dedicated public servant. Norm served as Ward 1 Councilman for three terms as well as Deputy Mayor. He was also the President of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce and made an indelible mark on Downtown Westfield through the many commercial properties he owned and businesses he ran. Our hearts go out to Norm's family, especially his wife Carol, as we remember him fondly for his commitment to Westfield.

### **CROSSING GUARD INFORMATION**

As I mentioned in my Friday update, I am grateful for the emails of concern and support I've received from parents in the Washington School community after one of their crossing guards, Bob Lewis, has been placed on temporary paid leave by ACMS, along with three other guards, following a functional capacity evaluation. Bob is a beloved member of the Washington School community, who I have personally known for over 20 years, along with other Washington parents Councilpersons Habgood, Dardia, and Parmelee, as Bob crossed all of our kids going to school. My kids still display the hand carved wooden name plates he gave them upon fifth grade graduation.

I'm going to ask Jim to provide a bit of context for what has transpired since Bob is an employee of ACMS, not the municipality.

### **Remarks by Town Administrator**

ACMS has managed our crossing guard program and has been a tremendous asset that allows our Police Department to keep their focus on police work and protecting the community. As part of their commitment to public safety, ACMS conducts Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCEs) in each of the hundreds of crossing guard programs they manage across the country. These evaluations are standard practice not only for crossing guards, but also for a variety of municipal jobs both here in Westfield and beyond. An FCE includes a multitude of tests based on the job requirements for everything from balance and flexibility to strength and agility. The notion that the test consisted of only walking a line and standing on one foot is false.

Following the results of ACMS' most recent round of visual checks by their Safety Compliance Team, safety concerns were raised at a few of the posts. Based on these concerns, four guards participated in FCEs and with unsuccessful results, were placed on temporary paid leave, and have been given the option to re-test on a future date. Employees of ACMS are required to maintain compliance with all safety standards as outlined by ACMS policy. Contrary to some information circulating on social media, nobody has been terminated, and this testing is done to protect not only the children, but also our crossing guards, who are highly valued members of this community. Like many Council members and residents, I know Bob Lewis at Washington, as well as one of the other guards tested, as they have worked as guards in Westfield for decades. When my kids walked to elementary school, we got to know our favorite guard, Jessica, so we all understand the emotional attachment that comes with a longtime guard.

The whole idea of the crossing guard job itself is all about safety. This kind of testing and attention to safety by ACMS is one of the reasons that we use a professional company that does this nationwide. ACMS' commitment to both their employees and the communities they serve is always laser focused on the goal of enhancing safety for children. The Police Department and I continue to be in communication with ACMS about next steps for the guards that want to be

retested, and we thank the Washington School community that has shown an amazing outpouring of affection for their Bob Lewis, and ACMS is fully aware of the love for Bob.

### **WESTFIELD SENIOR HOUSING SETTLEMENT**

Shifting gears, I do have some very good news to announce this evening. Tonight, we will vote on a resolution authorizing a settlement with Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, a positive outcome of litigation that has been pending since 2021.

As part of the settlement agreement, a payment of \$3.65M will be made immediately to the Town upon signing, inclusive of legal fees and costs incurred, both parties agree to a mutual dismissal of all pending litigation, and the Town will enter into new 30-year lease agreements with WSHC with the option of four five-year renewals.

The leases for both buildings at 1133 Boynton Avenue and 1129 Boynton Avenue are retroactive to October 1, 2023. The initial ground leases call for \$675,000 in total annual payments, subject to annual 2.25% escalations, reflecting a substantial increase in payments from the two ground leases from 1976 and 1993, which are being replaced, that had specified payments based on revenues.

This is a win for our beloved senior citizen community, as well as for the taxpayers of Westfield. The settlement ensures that seniors remain securely in their housing with a continuity of services, as has always been our steadfast commitment, and enables Westfield Senior Housing to remain as the long-standing providers of the important services they've successfully delivered to their residents. The \$3.65M payment will represent a substantial revenue influx into our municipal budget, allowing us additional flexibility to manage our tax rate and to continue making prudent investments that benefit all Westfield taxpayers.

I'd like to thank Councilwoman Habgood and Councilman Parmelee for their ongoing work to reach this settlement, along with Town Administrator Jim Gildea and Town Attorney Tom Jardim. We are very pleased with the outcome of the settlement, the terms of which are available to the public.

### **CELL TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT**

I'm also pleased to report that tonight that we are voting on a resolution authorizing a settlement agreement with AT&T for the cell tower to be placed in the Conservation Center, following the successful resolution of related litigation. As I've previously noted on this topic, both wireless carriers and residents alike have repeatedly cited a need to improve cellular service in the southwest section of town. This area has been identified as having wireless service gaps, specifically in the interiors of homes and buildings, including the schools – a concern we hear increasingly from residents. Additionally, boosting coverage in this area would improve the reliability of our emergency response network for our first responders.

But perhaps the most exciting part of this project is that it allows us to more expediently address long-standing issues at Houlihan/Sid Fay field – the lack of adequate parking, a restroom, and ADA compliance at the facility. In return for allowing a party to install a cell tower, the Town is requiring a \$100,000 donation to our Parks Improvement Fund, which will offset some of our costs for these necessary improvements – an innovative solution to solve these issues at no cost to taxpayers – in addition to annual lease payments for the use of the property. An RFP for the Houlihan/Sid Fay improvements is being prepared and will go out in the next few weeks with work anticipated to begin next spring.

### **NOVEMBER 7 GENERAL ELECTION**

Speaking of recreation facility upgrades, Election Day is four weeks away! The deadline for voter registration in Union County is Tuesday, October 17. Those eligible to vote can apply online, by mail, or in person in order to register.

For those who are registered, vote by mail ballots began arriving in mailboxes last week, so be sure not to overlook Public Question #1 (to the far right of the candidate slates), which is the Edison Fields referendum.

You can find all of the information about the project, including updated FAQs specific to the referendum, the financing details, and environmental approval requirements, at [westfieldnj.gov/edison-fields-project](http://westfieldnj.gov/edison-fields-project).

I also encourage each of you to watch the Candidates Forum this Thursday evening, here in the Council Chambers, which will be hosted and moderated by The Westfield Leader. This is an important election, with one seat in each of the four wards on the ballot, so please make sure you are informed.

You can return your ballot by mail or, better yet, drop it in the secure ballot drop off box in front of the Union County Clerk's Office at 300 North Avenue East.

### **NEW FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN**

Congratulations to our new firefighters, Valerie Aguirre and Matthew Ridge, who I had the honor of swearing in this morning! With these new firefighters joining the ranks, our Fire Department hit two major milestones:

- Firefighter Aguirre is the first female firefighter in the history of the department.
- The Fire Department has now reached its highest staffing level in 16 years.

There will be an official public swearing in at the Town Council meeting on October 24, so please join us for a historic night.

### **TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

In terms of tonight's agenda, we have a few notable legislative items covering the purchase of additional security cameras for the Police Department, as well as Code Review & Town Property resolutions addressing swimming pool enclosures and solar energy systems.

With that, let's get to work.

### **ADVERTISED HEARINGS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **BIDS**

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD  
INVITATION TO BID  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023  
2023 COLLECTION OF LEAVES**

### **Bidder**

### **Amount of Bid**

<b>Jesco, Inc.</b>	<b>Part A – N/A</b>
<b>118 St. Nicholas Avenue</b>	<b>Part B – (5) Units @ \$65.00/hr</b>
<b>South Plainfield, NJ 07080</b>	<b>Alt – N/A</b>
<b>Messercola</b>	<b>Part A – (1) Unit @ \$98.00/hr</b>

<b>549 East Third Street</b>	<b>Part B – N/A</b>
<b>Plainfield, NJ</b>	<b>Alt – (1) Unit @ \$98.00/hr</b>
<b>Ameritico Disposal Inc.</b>	<b>Part A – (4) Units @ \$84.50/hr</b>
<b>2295 South Ave</b>	<b>Part B – N/A</b>
<b>Scotch Plains, NJ 07076</b>	<b>Alt – (2) Unit @ \$80.00/hr</b>
<b>Galbraith</b>	<b>Part A – (3) Units @ \$90.00/hr</b>
<b>831 Raritan Road</b>	<b>Part B – N/A</b>
<b>Scotch Plains, NJ 07076</b>	<b>Alt – (1) Unit @ \$91.00/hr</b>

## **MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilwoman Root, Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the Town Council Conference Session and Regular Meeting held September 19, 2023.

## **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.

Steven Goodman, 322 Orenda Circle, is ashamed and embarrassed for the Mayor and Town Council. He has never neglected his duties in standing up and discerning what's right or wrong. He is disappointed in how the Council approaches plans and feels citizens of the Town were not given the chance to vote and the Council has abused their power. He stated the Council changed the zoning of business districts to fit the Town's Master Plan and the characterization of the One Westfield Place Redevelopment Project prevented citizens from voting on changes the Council wanted. He spoke about the shared service agreement with the Board of Education without letting residents vote and the sale of town property to HBC | Streetworks without a public bid or alternative. Mr. Goodman also mentioned the insert in the fourth quarter tax bills regarding the Edison School Field project. He feels the Council should have presented alternative choices of voting the bond ordinance down and explain the full cost and downside of the proposed artificial turf. He continued to speak about cost of the Edison School Field project stating it was originally estimated at \$9mm and then ballooned to \$11.8mm and by his recollection it is now \$18mm over the next 15 years. He had some concerns about the PILOT program for Westfield Crossings which would fund this project. He emailed Councilwoman Habgood about his concerns and was not pleased with her response time and did not understand how he came up with the \$18mm cost. He explained that although he is not a finance professional, he does understand the total cost will include \$11.8mm for initial costs of the field construction and three to four million on bond interest over the next 15 years, with a half a million in additional maintenance costs and two to three million in replacement costs equals \$18mm. Mr. Goodman feels funding should go to updated technology, great teachers, updated facilities, new roofs, new bathrooms and the advancement of students academics rather than the ones who choose to play on the field. He voiced that the Mayor, Council and certain sports teams are more invested in trying to be right than admitting they are wrong; concentrating on what they want and not what the town needs. Mr. Goodman stated if the Mayor & Council do not want to consider alternative options, perhaps it would be more prudent for citizens, to realize their mistakes in voting for this administration and change the vote to a more democratic, transparent administration that listens, gives choices, and knows right from wrong. Mr. Goodman closed his comments by stating there will be a choice on November 7<sup>th</sup>, vote for the new members of Town Council and vote no for the Edison Field Project.

Marc Herzog, 325 North Chestnut, has been a resident for 16 years and is in attendance on behalf of the Westfield High School Band Parents Association. The Westfield High School Marching Band competes at a very high level every year. Just this past weekend at a competition in Piscataway, the Marching Band tied for the highest score of all the bands attending the event. These results or better are what one can consistently expect from the Westfield High School Marching Band. The Westfield High School Marching Blue Devils practice on Edison Field. It's the only co-curricular high school class taught there. Rehearsals are four days per week between two and ten hours per day with more in August every year. The Marching Blue Devils always compete on turf fields but never had the opportunity to rehearse on turf fields. Often rehearsals are cancelled because of wet slippery conditions during or after rainstorms. During the dryer years, the field is a dust ball which makes it difficult to do any physical activity. In sports and activities such as Marching Band should practice on what is expected to compete on. Please vote yes on the Edison Field Project.

Jean Lehmborg, 528 Grove Street, is a retired teacher and made comments for the current and future children and adults who believe they should have a safe environment and a habitable planet. They deserve to know where artificial turf originates and what it is made of. Mr. Lehmborg explained artificial turf fields consist of many layers, most of which are hidden beneath the surface. The green part that looks like grass is a plastic carpet and starts off as natural gas which is extracted using fracking equipment sent to a processing facility and put through a polymerization process, eventually becoming pre-production pellets or nurdles. The feed stock of all plastics. Artificial turf manufacturers purchase nurdles, the nurdles are melted, dyed green, and other toxic chemicals including plasticizers, UV inhibitors, flame retardants, and polyfloral alkaline substances, or PFAS are added to the hot liquid, which is extruded to form yarn. The yarn is woven into a plastic carpet that becomes the top layer of the artificial turf field. Although, any color dye could be added to the liquid plastic, green is chosen to send the subliminal message that it is real grass, not a plastic carpet. The PFAS, which are known as forever chemicals, because the carbon fluorine bonds are nearly unbreakable, remain in the carpet from cradle to grave and bioaccumulate in plants, animals, and people. PFAS and other chemical additives are endocrine disrupting chemicals that have been linked to cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, infertility, obesity, and thyroid and cardiovascular diseases. Mrs. Lehmborg continued that on warm sunny days, artificial turf becomes very hot, increasing the likelihood that field users will experience dehydration, heat exhaustion, burns, and blisters. The higher temperatures cause the chemicals to volatilize, creating a very unpleasant odor and health risks for field users who inhale the fumes. Plastic grass carpets contain millions of blades of plastic grass that break apart into micro plastics, pieces of plastic, less than five millimeters in length, due to the wear and tear of sports activities, UV radiation, and exposure to the elements. The toxic chemicals they contain migrate off the field and into the soil, groundwater, storm drains, into oceans, and eventually into humans. Plastic grass carpets, carbon dioxide, and methane, greenhouse gases that cause rising global temperatures and climate change. Plastic grass, carpets wear out and need to be replaced every eight to ten years and end up in landfills or incinerated but contrary to marketing claims are not recycled. There are no recycling facilities for artificial turf in the United States. Mrs. Lehmborg stated the alternative is natural grass athletic fields that have been designed to withstand sports activities and maintained using organic and regenerative practices. They are durable, safe, and virtually rainout proof. Natural grass athletic fields are free from toxic chemicals and provide cushion surfaces. They capture and store carbon dioxide in the root mass and soil. They grow stronger and more resilient as the soil health improves and cost far less to install and maintain than plastic grass over time. The Town of Westfield does not have any natural grass athletic fields. Instead, there is minimally maintained schoolyards and parks that are forced to serve as athletic fields. Communities north of Westfield in Massachusetts and south of Westfield in Maryland have organically maintained natural grass athletic fields. The difference between those communities and Westfield is they have made the health and safety of people and shared planet a priority. Westfield can and should adopt that mindset too.

Greg Lehmborg, 528 Grove Street, received the mailing about the Edison Field Project with his tax statement. He wanted to add a few sections to the Edison Field Project regarding the numbers. Zero; the number of grass athletic fields in Westfield that are actually designed and maintained as athletic fields. He explained the Town uses schoolyards and parks and calls them fields but clearly, they're not. Greater than one thousand, the playable hours for organically managed grass athletic fields that are properly designed and maintained by trained experts. He stated that's 25% to 33% more than the industry benchmark cited in the newsletter. Numerous case studies support this. 47%, the percentage of field hours leased out at least outside of Westfield that are grass field. Apparently, some grass fields are acceptable, just not the Town of Westfield's. 100% of the remaining natural grass at Edison Field, that's fenced in by the varsity baseball field and functionally inaccessible to Edison Intermediate School students. 50% of the approximate portion of stormwater drains in Westfield that flow into Robinson's Creek. Mr. Lehmborg stated literally, millions of gallons of water and heavy rain field runoff is a drop in the bucket by comparison. 20,000, according to the USDA, the number of gallons of water per acre retained in soil by adding 1% organic matter. 4% would absorb three inches of rainwater. He feels it doesn't take millions of dollars to manage stormwater. Thirty-four, the number of weeks per year where the demand for field use is at its peak. Most fields sit idle the rest of the year. \$18mm, the approximate upfront cost of the Edison Field Project plus bond interest plus carpet replacement and maintenance over the first 15 years of the project. \$1.2 million dollars, the annual average cost per year of the Edison Field Project in the first 15 years. Mr. Lehmborg asked does the Town seriously thinks that it cannot renovate and organically maintain top quality grass fields across town, not just the Edison Field Project, for far less money than \$1.2 million annually. There are alternatives to the Edison Field Project. It doesn't have to be a choice between millions of dollars, environmental damage, hundreds of thousands of pounds of plastic and other toxins containing materials on school property or nothing. He voiced, it just takes the right mindset and expertise to make it happen. He used his remaining time to point out that the Town Administrator's work on paving the roads in town has really started to pay dividends. He appreciates all that work.

John McDevitt, 631 Summit, wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for their time and dedication to Westfield. He knows it is a tough job with limited perks but it's important for all residents to have good people willing to serve. As a resident of Ward three, he would like to say a special thanks to Councilman Mark LoGrippo for his 12 years of service to the Town. He's always appreciated his accessibility and commitment to the Ward 3 residents. Mr. McDevitt is President of the Westfield School Booster Association and is in attendance on behalf of the boosters. The Boosters are 52 volunteers whose sole purpose is to support Westfield High School athletic programs, and athletes. The Boosters raise money annually to upgrade equipment, facilities, and provide year-end scholarships to the most deserving student athletes all with the hope of elevating the athletes' performance and experience with the help of this great community. As such, while the Boosters do not typically take a public position on ballot items, the Edison Field Project aligns with the Boosters and is very similar to past projects they have undertaken such as the Westfield High School basketball court, baseball field, and soon to be improvements on the softball fields. This project is obviously on a much bigger scale and requires the support of the Town, but it aligns with the Boosters mission, and they are fully supportive. As Boosters, Mr. McDevitt explained, they regularly interact with Westfield High School administration, coaches, and athletes and consistently hear of the need for improved fields. The Town needs both improved grass, and more turf fields. As has been discussed, the turf fields help with the volume of activity and with the ability to continue to practice at night and have games during inclement weather. The Boosters agree that the additional turf fields at Edison are required before enhancing grass fields. It's not an either or with this Edison Project. It is the beginning of a concerted effort to improve the fields for the athletes in Westfield. These improvements will have a direct benefit on the girls' flag field hockey, girls flag football, softball, baseball, football, soccer and lacrosse. In addition, it will help the Westfield High School bands and various youth sports programs which all feed the Westfield High School athletic programs and help make Westfield High School one of the premier high school athletic



programs in the state. The Westfield Boosters strongly support the Edison Fields ballot question and recommend that residents vote yes for this initiative.

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

Mayor Brindle stated “at our last meeting, I went through some of the key points about the project, its rationale, and the main questions we hear from residents about location and grass field usage. Since that time, I’ve continued to get some questions based on information residents have received from the group opposing the project. I’d like to address some of those issues and clear up any misinformation.

In terms of financing, it’s important that everyone has the facts about municipal finance and, in reality, what that bond ordinance funding means. I will have Jim Gildea speak to this.

#### Administrator’s remarks:

The Town plans to use three primary forms of funding for this project:

- PILOT funds from the Westfield Crossing development
- Well-managed debt service leveraging the Town’s AAA credit rating
- A substantial capital campaign seeking grants, sponsorships, and contributions

#### PILOT Funds

When the proposal for the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) was announced in 2021 for the Westfield Crossing development on South Avenue, the Town indicated that those funds – expected to yield \$20M over the 30-year developer agreement, beginning next year – would be utilized to offset a portion of the related debt service each year for Edison Fields, thereby mitigating the burden on taxpayers.

#### Well-Managed Debt Service

Debt service, which is the repayment of the bonded funds for the project, would not start until 2024, at the earliest. The \$11.8M we have authorized is likely more than the anticipated final project cost to ensure maximum financial flexibility. As with all debt service, the full amount does not get absorbed into the municipal budget at once, but rather over a 15-20 year period, as we do with other large-scale investments like municipal equipment purchases, road paving, etc.

In the first several years of debt service, the Town will likely utilize bond anticipation notes, which require interest-only payments, before it moves to the bond market to help offset the remaining debt service after PILOT payments. Because of the Town’s enviable AAA rating, we are able to obtain the most favorable terms and interest rates for our debt service, just as we do for other capital and municipal projects each year, allowing us to minimize the burden on taxpayers. For context, the Town has carried, on average, \$3.1M in debt service each year over the last six years, during which time the average municipal tax increase was the lowest in over a decade. While the debt service carrying costs will increase with a project like this is smoothed out in each budget year due to many different municipal finance mechanisms at our disposal and revenue sources like Westfield Crossing PILOT payments that will offset a portion of the debt service. We also already know that we have a debt drop off in 2028 which provides us a window to manage our debt in this way until we get to that time frame.

#### Capital Campaign

Lastly, we anticipate a capital campaign seeking grants, sponsorships, and sports league contributions to further offset costs. In fact, interest in donating toward this project has already been expressed by several local associations who are in the process of finalizing their plans.

#### Mayor’s remarks:

Other details circulating about the project include the following:

**Edison students’ access to natural grass for lunch, recess, or PE:** Edison students have had these activities held on Kehler Field for quite some time; this is not an arrangement that is driven by Edison Fields.

**Injuries and heat related to turf:** Houlihan/Sid Fey and Kehler Fields were built in 2005 and 2006, respectively – with the latter resurfaced as recently as 2019. In those 18 years, we have not heard of any notable disruptions of use due to surface heat and have not heard concerns raised from the leagues and schools’ athletic teams about increased injuries due to turf. We have, however, heard about injuries from playing on overused grass fields that turn into packed dirt late into a team’s season.

**Concerns over Robinson’s Branch of the Rahway River:** This project is as much a stormwater management project as it is a recreation project and is expected to significantly improve stormwater runoff for this neighborhood and reduce the risk of flooding with new properly designed drainage. Due to its proximity to Robinsons Branch creek, the entire design plan must be approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection before moving forward, and any plan will have to not only improve stormwater runoff from current conditions, but also meet the state’s most updated flood protection requirements. Because this is an area of priority in the project, the Town increased its investment capacity in the bond ordinance in order to ensure that all appropriate measures can be taken to address stormwater mitigation.

**Natural grass usage:** I was frankly surprised to see that opponents are claiming that natural grass athletic fields are, in their words, virtually rain-out proof and do not need to be rested. This is contrary to what we’ve experienced not only in this rainy past month, but also in every finding we’ve encountered over the last two years – both professional and anecdotal – and specifically counters the WSA’s current experience managing the Elm Street field in their recently formed partnership with the Board of Education. This field was out of service for the entire fall of 2022 and had limited usage in spring 2023 – only for training and for nine-player teams (9x9). Beginning this fall, through the end of 2024 (half of the total span of the partnership), the WSA has scheduled 9x9 and 7x7 games on the field. Usage is monitored based on the impact of rainfall and in the spring, about 15% of the scheduled days were canceled due to wet conditions.

**Success of other communities with organic natural grass fields:** We have yet to identify a single municipality in New Jersey that relies primarily or solely on natural grass athletic fields. One of the few communities that opponents of Edison Fields points to is in Springfield, MA, where several case studies have been written about their use of organic natural grass athletic fields. Since those case studies were written, the City of Springfield has begun construction of an artificial turf complex serving middle and high school football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse, as well as lighting, bleachers, restrooms and a concession stand. The Mayor of Springfield, who was quoted as saying the project will “benefit our community and enhance the quality of life for our neighborhoods,” was photographed just six days ago at the new site as it nears completion. Its cost is \$14M, and, notably, \$250K of which was provided by the New England Patriots.

As we’ve said time and again, adding turf is critical to alleviate the current overuse of grass fields that already exist. Maintaining existing natural grass fields without the supplement of a lighted turf field to relieve some usage capacity is not a prudent use of funds – a conclusion that was echoed in our conversations with Somerset County and South Orange, NJ, both of which are cited as having successful grass fields programs. And, it’s of course important to remember that, with the addition of Edison Fields, the Town’s field locations will still be approximately 85% natural grass.

**Parks Master Plan Survey Results:** Opponents have also stated that the Town is not investing in projects with broad appeal, listing new/improved restrooms and other upgrades as a top priority. I’m glad that our innovative cell tower solution will be providing for the restrooms and other much-needed upgrades I mentioned earlier at Houlihan/Sid Fey, complementing the Memorial Field restrooms we’ve installed, along with the full replacement of Windsor Playground and fencing at Mindowaskin Playground, among other improvements. Edison Fields is one component – albeit a large one – of a much broader Strategic Parks Plan. This first step in addressing our field shortage allows us the greatest and most immediate additional capacity to benefit the largest number of user groups.

There are also a number of good neighbor measures that will be taken at the site to address concerns about traffic and noise mitigation.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS**

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$640,050.88 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, seconded by Councilwoman Root, were unanimously adopted.

**Resolution No. 198**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$3,000 to the order of the United States Postal Service to replenish bulk mail permit no. 683 in order to process the Town’s Leaf Collection brochure.

**Resolution No. 199**

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

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Fee</u></b>
Matthew Warkentin	Withdrew	Adult Pickleball/Fall/Session1 Matthew Warkentin/Intermediate	\$104.50 Credit Card
Matthew Warkentin	Withdrew	Adult Pickleball/Fal/Session 1 Lauren Federgreen/Intermediate	\$104.50 Credit Card
Stella Born	Withdrew	Adult Tennis/Fall/Beg/Adv Beg Stella Born	\$147.25 Credit Card
Knute Dahlgaard	Wrong Permit	Conservation Center Bulk Waste Disposal Permit	\$40.00 Credit Card
Dave Kaufmann	Wrong Class	Young Rembrandts Cartoon Drawing Laila Kaufmann	\$166.25 Credit Card
June Hall	Withdrew	Adult Pickleball/Beginner Session 2 Class 1 – June Hall	\$104.50 Credit Card
Kristie Barba	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Leah Barba	\$252.00 Credit Card
Suraj Gupta	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Lila Gupta	\$252.00 Credit Card
Jason Keane	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Clara Keane	\$252.00 Credit Card
Maciej Kowalewska	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Julia Kowalewska	\$252.00 Credit Card
Courtney MacGregor	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Madelyn MacGregor	\$252.00 Credit Card
Meghan Reid	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Harper Reid	\$252.00 Credit Card

Robert Heim	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Colette Heim	\$252.00 Credit Card
James Hill	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Fiona Hill	\$252.00 Credit Card
Dan O'Connor	Program Canceled	Fashion First Workshops Fiona O'Connor	\$252.00 Credit Card
Aimee Kowalak	Withdrew	Safe Sitter/Babysitting 10/21/23 class Kayla Kowalak	\$118.72 Credit Card

**Resolution No. 200**

LET IT HEREBY BE RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and hereby is authorized to draw a warrant for refund of dumpster security payment(s) as follows following final inspection and approval for return of deposit:

Argyle Construction  
P.O. Box 167  
57 S. Main Street  
Neptune, NJ 07753

Amount of refund: \$975.00

**Resolution No. 201**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$16.80 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 August 2023.

**Resolution No. 202**

WHEREAS, the following applicants have placed the required cash bond of \$1,500.00 to cover the following Road Opening Permits, and

Date	Permit No.	Applicant	Address of Opening
05/24/22	22-253	Paul Sakson Environmental PO Box 154 Leonardo, NJ 07737-0154	534 Hort Street
06/08/22	22-275	Thomas Sevchuk 888 Winyah Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090	888 Winyah Avenue
08/16/22	22-327	Justin Arak 23 Mohawk Trail Westfield, NJ 07090	23 Mohawk Trail

WHEREAS, the required one-year hold on the funds has been met and the applicants are therefore entitled to have the bonds returned to them, and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to draw a warrant in the name of the applicants noted above for \$1,500.00, forward to the applicants address as listed.

**Resolution No. 203**

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$375.00 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 July - September 2023.

**Resolution No. 204**

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 \$20,604.00 to the TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY for the third quarter Construction Official's State permit fees for 2023.

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. 205**

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:5-19.1 authorizes electronic tax sales pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Director of the Division of Government Services, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated rules and regulations for electronic tax sales, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has approved NJ Tax Lien Investors/RealAuction.com to conduct electronic tax sales, and

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale is innovative and provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating the environment for a more complete tax sale process, and

WHEREAS, the municipality of Westfield wishes to participate in an electronic tax sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the municipality of Westfield, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to participate in an electronic tax sale and submit same to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services if necessary.

**Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee**

The following resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Root, seconded by Councilwoman Mackey, was unanimously adopted.

**Resolution 206**

WHEREAS, the Westfield Police Department currently employs video technology to monitor and ensure the safety and security of its headquarters, as well as the Municipal Building, critical offices located therein and in surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the video technology presently in use by the Westfield Police Department is outdated, no longer supported by the manufacturer, and in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Police Department's Records & Information Technology (IT) Bureau recommends the purchase of replacement Verkada video technology through Office Solutions, Inc., 217 Mount Horeb Road, Warren, NJ 07059-5628 ("OSI"), pricing to include all hardware, equipment, licenses, and installation, in the amount not to exceed \$146,242.75; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield participates in the PEPPM Cooperative, which offers this technology; and

WHEREAS, OSI, Inc. has partnered with LEAF Capital Funding, LLC P.O. Box 5066, Hartford, CT 06102-5066, for funding purposes, and the Town of Westfield will make a one-time, interest-free payment to LEAF Capital Funding for this equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of adequate funds for purchase of this replacement video technology, charged to Special Ordinance 2023-04, under Purchase Order #23-03239 as follows:

\$36,242.75 under account C-07-23-004-1A4  
110,000.00 under account C-07-23-002-5A1 for a total cost of  
\$146,242.75, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-1.10;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield does hereby authorize that payment in the amount of \$146,242.75 be made to LEAF Capital Funding, LLC, P.O. Box 5066, Hartford, CT 06102-5066 for this replacement video technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be and are hereby authorized to take whatever actions are appropriate in the execution and discharge of this agreement.

**Code Review & Town Property Committee**

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

**Resolution No. 207**

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield was named as a Party Defendant in certain litigation captioned *Westfield Senior Citizens Urban Renewal Partnership, L.P. v. Town of Westfield*, filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Union County under Docket No. UNN-L-002325-21, and the Town asserted certain counterclaims against Westfield Senior Citizens Urban Renewal Partnership, L.P., and certain third-party claims against Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corp.; and

WHEREAS, the Town, in consideration of the litigation costs and legal fees associated with the defense and the prosecution of the action, and without admitting any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, desires to resolve said litigation; and

WHEREAS, a form of Settlement Agreement has been counsel for the respective parties, which Settlement Agreement also provides for entering into two leases, one with Westfield Senior Citizens Urban Renewal Partnership, L.P., for the property located at 1133 Boynton Avenue, Lot 30, Block 4901, in the Town of Westfield, County of Union, and one with Westfield Senior Citizens' Housing Corporation, for the property located 1129 Boynton Avenue, Lot 9, Block 4901, in the Town of Westfield, County of Union, and the Settlement Agreement and Leases have been reviewed by the Town Attorney;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor or her designee is hereby authorized to sign a Settlement Agreement to resolve the above-referenced litigation in accordance with the terms of said Settlement Agreement, and is further authorized to enter into the Leases being entered into in connection with the parties' settlement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be, hereby are, authorized to take whatever actions are appropriate in the execution and discharge of this Resolution.

Record of Vote – Resolution No. 207-2023				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

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

**Resolution No. 208**

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield was named as a Party Defendant in certain litigation captioned *David Munsky v. the Town of Westfield*, filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Union County under Docket No. UNN-L-3808-22; and

WHEREAS, the Town, in consideration of the litigation costs and legal fees associated with the defense of the action, and without admitting any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, desires to resolve said litigation; and

WHEREAS, a form of Settlement Agreement has been prepared by counsel for the respective parties, and the Settlement Agreement has been reviewed by the Town Attorney;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor or her designee is hereby authorized to sign a Settlement Agreement to resolve the above-referenced litigation in accordance with the terms of said Settlement Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be, hereby are, authorized to take whatever actions are appropriate in the execution and discharge of this Resolution.

Record of Vote – Resolution No. 208-2023				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

**General Ordinance No. 2023-30**

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilman Parmelee made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-30 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING REFUNDANT PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ENCLOSURE OF PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS”.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mackey.

General Ordinance No. 2023-30 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Record of Vote – Introduction General Ord. 2023-30				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2023-30 does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 24th day of October 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.2023-31**

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilman Parmelee made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-31 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD IN REGARD TO SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURES.”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Katz.

General Ordinance No. 2023-31 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Record of Vote – Introduction General Ord. 2023-31				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2023-31 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 November 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. 2023-32**

Regarding the following ordinance, Councilman Parmelee made the following announcement: I hereby move that an ordinance entitled, “GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-32 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD RELATING TO THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS”.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Contract.

Councilman Contract thanked the green team who has really tried to make solar panel installation easier for residents. This a step forward and appreciates the Council support on this resolution.

General Ordinance No. 2023-32 was approved by the following vote of all present upon roll call as follows:

Record of Vote – Introduction General Ord. 2023-32				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

Heretofore introduced, General Ordinance No. 2023-32 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 November 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**

The following resolution, introduced by Councilman Katz, seconded by Councilwoman Root, was unanimously adopted.



**Resolution No. 209**

WHEREAS, a need exists for the contract rental of privately owned equipment for use by the Department of Public Works in the 2023 Leaf Collection Program, as provided for in Public Works account 137-246, and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were received on Wednesday, September 19, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the low bids received for **Part A – Hauling from the Street** (30 Cubic Yard Capacity (MINIMUM) Dump Trailers or Roll-off Containers with working tarps and operators) have been analyzed and found to be fair and reasonable for the rental of this service; and

WHEREAS, the low bid received for **Part B - Loaders**, has been analyzed and found to be fair and reasonable for the rental of this service, and

WHEREAS, the Town received multiple bids for **Alternate A-1 – Hauling from the Street** (Tri-Axle Dump Trucks), and have been analyzed and found to be fair and reasonable for the rental of this service; and

WHEREAS, Certificate of the Town Treasurer, certifying to the availability of adequate funds for this Contract, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30 1.10 has been furnished to the Town Clerk. Expenditure of funds is to be charged to Public Works account 137-246, in a total amount not expected to exceed \$185,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following contracts be awarded, and that the proper Town Officials be, and they are hereby, authorized to act as appropriate in the execution and discharge of this contract

**PART A**

**AMERITCO DISPOSAL, INC.**

2295 South Avenue

(4) Hauling from Street/Trucks, w/ operators at \$84.50/HR, not

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

expected to exceed \$145,000.00, under PO #23-03450

**ALT-(2)**

**AMERITCO DISPOSAL, INC.**

2295 South Avenue

(2) Tri-axle Hauling from Street/Trucks to Facility at \$80.00/HR, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 included as part of PO #23-03450

**PART B**

**JESCO, INC.**

1790 Route 38

(2) Front End Loaders w/o Operators at \$65.00/HR, not

expected to

Mount Holly, NJ 08060

exceed \$40,000.00, under PO #23-03451

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be, hereby are, authorized to take whatever actions are appropriate in the execution and discharge of this Resolution.

Record of Vote – Resolution No. 209-2023				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Habgood	X			
Parmelee	X			
LoGrippo				X
Katz	X			
Mackey	X			
Contract	X			
Dardia	X			
Root	X			
Mayor Brindle	X			

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilwoman Mackey thanked everyone who has reached out and inquired regarding Addamsfest. AddamsFest is kicking off this weekend with an incredible art exhibit featuring the

work of not only Charles Adams but Edward Gorey. Councilwoman Mackey encourages everyone to visit 122 Elm Street for the exhibit. Councilwoman Mackey mentioned the family fun day that was set for the upcoming weekend however it will most likely be rained out. – the Town is working on an indoor contingency plan. There are a lot of events planned for this month. All of the information can be found at [www.addamsfest.com](http://www.addamsfest.com).

The Town Administrator thanked the Mayor & Council for passing the 2023 Leaf Collection Resolution and mentioned the Town is only renting two loaders this year compared to the normal five. The Town is currently leasing loaders year-round which is a savings to the Town.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilman Contract at 9:15 P.M. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Lawshe, RMC

Town Clerk