

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 AT 7:30 PM**

Mayor Giordano called the meeting to order and read the Statement of Compliance.

Mayor Giordano asked for a roll call. Present on roll call: Mayor Giordano, Mr. Brennecke, Mr. Martinello, Mr. Ramundo, Mr. Ritchie and Mrs. Weber. Ms. Cericola-Drake was absent.

Also present: Tatiana Marquis, Borough Administrator; Kelley Halewicz, Municipal Clerk and Rob Devaney, Esq., for Craig Bossong, Municipal Attorney.

Mayor Giordano asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance, remain standing for a moment of silence honoring our Veterans and to remain standing for the prayer.

**PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

a. Recognition of Police Chief Mark Messner

Mayor Giordano commented Tonight, I am both privileged and honored to stand before you to speak about Chief Mark Messner, who is retiring from the Waldwick Police Department after 36 years of dedicated service to our residents and community.

Mark is here tonight with his wife Patty who works north of us in the next town (just saying) in a florist. and his three kids Joseph, Matthew and Carlie. I want to thank Patty for sharing her husband with us for all these years.

I know it must have been hard since Mark was always busy with Waldwick Business and you must have been mother and father at times. At the end of the day, job well done Patty.

When I first was elected to the Borough Council, Mark had just been appointed Acting Chief in 2005, and soon after became Chief in 2006. From the very beginning, it was clear that Mark's leadership, integrity, and compassion would define his tenure.

Over the past 19 years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mark. Time and again, he has demonstrated his love for this community, his unwavering service, and his selfless dedication to the well-being of Waldwick's residents and his fellow officers.

His decisions may not always have been the most popular ones, but they were always the right ones — grounded in the safety and best interests of our town.

In a 2016 interview with NorthJersey.com, Mark said, and I quote: "Sometimes it sounds kind of corny, but you want to be a cop because you want to help people. That's what all kids say in their interviews, and that's pretty much what I said." He went on to say: "You want to do something positive and be part of something bigger than yourself - to help people who need your help. There's no 'S' on your chest; you must treat people with respect and hopefully they will treat you with that same respect as well."

Every day, police officers live by this calling, driven by honor, courage, and a deep sense of duty to their communities. Law enforcement isn't just a career; it's a lifelong commitment to being there, no matter what the challenge.

Mark, you have worn your uniform and badge with pride and with steadfast dedication to Waldwick and all its residents. As you retire, you can look back on your years of service with the knowledge that you truly made a difference and accomplished so much for this community we all love.

Mark cheers to your second act - may it be even more rewarding than the first. Enjoy your new seven-day weekend! Congratulations on your retirement and best wishes as you begin this next chapter of your life.

Will everyone please join me in congratulating Chief Mark Messner on an extraordinary career of service, leadership, and dedication to the place we all proudly call home - Waldwick.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mayor's Report. Mayor Giordano performed a wedding on Saturday for a resident. With regards to the Halloween House Decorating Contest, the judges were the winners of a drawing at The Golden Club meeting.

Financial & Administrative Committee. Mr. Ritchie had no report.

Fire & Police Protection Committee. Mr. Brennecke reported that the Fire Chief has reached out to determine the delivery date of the new apparatus. It appears to be another year out.

Public Safety Committee. Mr. Martinello reported on Halloween events at the library. Also, the FREE Rabies Clinic at the DPW garage on November 6 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

On the recreation side, winter sports are starting up. High School playoffs are underway. Good luck to them.

Recreational & Health Committee. Ms. Cericola-Drake was absent.

Public Works Committee. Mr. Ramundo had no report.

Buildings & Grounds Committee. Mrs. Weber attended the Ragamuffin Parade. Lions Park is coming along and should be ready by the end of November. WALVAC key fobs have been installed. There is an issue with their garage door.

Mayor Giordano thanked Loucas for attending the Ragamuffin Parade. Looking to see if we can help out with oxygen as they are paying for this themselves.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Attorney. Mr. Devaney had no report but Closed Session matters with no decisions being made.

Administrator. Mrs. Marquis congratulated Chief Messner on his retirement. Lions Park playground should be completed in the next two weeks, and we will schedule a ribbon cutting date to be determined. Phase 1 of the Hudson Avenue curb ramp improvements were finalized at the end of last week.

Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Halewicz reported for the General Election – November 4. The Vote by Mail drop box is located behind the Public Safety Building. There are signs posted to direct voters to the box on E. Prospect Street near library.

Early Voting begins Saturday, October 25 through Sunday, November 2  
Hours are Monday – Saturday 10 am – 8 pm and Sunday 10 am – 6 pm

Voters can go to any one of the 9 locations but the two closest to Waldwick are Woodcliff Lake, Tice Senior Center, 411 Chestnut Ridge Road and Wyckoff Public Library, Shotmeyer Room, 200 Woodland Avenue. This information is in the Friday email blast, Borough website under Elections and flyers in the lobby of this building.

November 3 by 3:00 pm Deadline for In Person Mail-In Ballot Applications in the County Clerk’s office in Hackensack

General Election Day – Tuesday, November 4. Polls open 6 am – 8 pm. Bring sample ballot with you to the polls for faster check-in. Also sample ballot has your voting district and location on the front.

## CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION NO. 2025-294

#### Approval of Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions herewith listed by consent having been considered by the Governing Body of the Borough of Waldwick are hereby passed and approved as amended to include 2025-303:

#### 2025-294 Approval of Consent Agenda

##### Policy Votes

- a. Waldwick Chamber of Commerce request permission to hold the 18th Annual Waldwick Chamber of Commerce 5K Run on Sunday, May 3, 2026 from 7:00 am - 11:30 am
- b. Waldwick Chamber of Commerce request to hang the W5K banner on the fence located at the end of East Prospect Street beginning April 1, 2026 as well as mounting a 3’ x 5’ American Flag over Hopper Avenue bridge across from the Borough pool beginning May 1, 2026 to be removed after May 4, 2026
- c. Waldwick Chamber of Commerce requests assistance of the Police, DPW, CERT, and Fire Department with the Chamber of Commerce 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk on Sunday, May 3, 2026
- d. Angela Gold requests to use Pavilion B on November 29, from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm for a birthday party with alcoholic beverages being served

2025-295 Amend a Non-Fair and Open Professional Services Contract with DRG Architects for Roofing and HVAC Replacement at the Waldwick Police Firing Range for Additional Services in the Amount of \$6,000

2025-296 Appointment of Lieutenant Troy Seifert as Acting Chief of the Waldwick Police Department

2025-297 Accept Resignation of George Pederson as Part Time Electrical Inspector

2025-298 Approval of Submission of the Local Government Services Best Practices Inventory for 2025

2025-299 Authorizing the Re-Affirmation of the Employee Handbook, Personnel Policies Manual, and Policy Addressing Additions to the Americans with Disabilities Policy, Additions to the Policy Against the Harassment, Change in Language to Vacation Leave Policy and Addition of an Acknowledgement of Receipt page

- 2025-300 Authorize Discretionary Property Tax Grace Period Extension During Prolonged Federal Government Shutdown
- 2025-301 Payment of Vouchers
- 2025-303 Accept the Resignation of April Banach as Full Time Keyboarding Clerk 1

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Brennecke	X		X			
Cericola-Drake						X
Martinello			X			
Ramundo			X			
Ritchie		X	X			
Weber			X			
Mayor Giordano						

**PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S)** – None.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)** – None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Giordano thanked Chuck Wanamaker and WCA for the Ragamuffin Parade.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ramundo commented that the Environmental Committee is planning four events for next year and two clean ups. The Committee is requesting when stocking the pond next year, that we work with Pequot Fish Hatchery to stock it with warm water fish for the catch and release program. Also looking to do No Mow Summer next year. The Committee would like to revisit the water conservation ordinance for watering during summer months.

Mr. Ritchie congratulated Acting Chief Seifert on his Resolution.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Giordano asked if any member of the public wished to come forward and to discuss anything and if so, please state your name only for the record.

Elise Dittamo spoke to the issue of the No Kings Rally on October 18 and thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for keeping everyone safe and protected.

Dolores Cunelly spoke to the issue of the No Kings Rally and being a 30-year Waldwickian. Our small town is so welcoming and accommodating to everyone. She thanked the DPW for barricades to keep everyone safe. She did not understand the Fire department blocking the main thoroughfare.

Lt. Seifert responded that he was not in town that weekend, but the officer in charge made a call that in order to keep people safe, the fire truck was the best way to do that, and he supports that officer.

Mayor Giordano commented that it was for safety reasons.

Angela Smith was thankful to live in a town that protected people's first amendment rights on both sides. She thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and DPW for their effort to keep both protestors and counterprotestors safe.

Helga Dott spoke to the issue of the No Kings Rally and had some questions in response to the Councilpersons comments on the day. Because that person is not here this evening, she put her questions to the Mayor and Administrator.

She asked were any businesses affected by the rally.

The Mayor said no.

She asked was the Borough left in disarray.

Mrs. Marquis drove throughout the town and that was not the case. The clean up was for DPW to collect the barricades.

She asked if protestors cause disruptions.

Acting Chief Seifert said they were allowed to protest within the law.

Mayor Giordano said she should send the person who made these claims an email and CC the Administrator and himself.

Paul Santo spoke to the issue of the No Kings Rally. His experience was not what has been reported thus far tonight. He observed a vehicle with young children who encountered protestors screaming, who were partially off the sidewalk, into the car.

Mr. Santo discussed the comments on Facebook about Mayor Giordano a man he has known to be honorable. He is being dragged through the mud for crossing party lines doing what he believes is best for the Borough and its residents.

Mr. Santo would like to see an ordinance regarding the number of people who are allowed to protest in Waldwick.

He then spoke to redevelopment and would like to see it appropriately done. He is tired of seeing people slandering the Mayor's name.

Ted Sanzo spoke to the issue of the PILOT program and asked if this could go to Referendum.

Mr. Devaney commented that it is feasible to do that.

Joann Mitchell spoke to the issue of the water system and still wanting to know when the report will be done and when the meeting with the public will be held. Our water is still affected by this.

Mrs. Marquis commented that she has reached out to H2M to discuss these issues.

Jim Schultz spoke to the issue of our Redevelopment attorney and asked what she has been doing as well as when she will make a presentation. The Borough needs to consider the ramifications of a PILOT program.

Mrs. Marquis explained that she already made a presentation to educate the Council and public on PILOT and the steps in the redevelopment process. We know that the developer has spoken about a PILOT, but we have not received anything to act on.

Catherine Hartmann spoke to the issue of SNAP benefits being suspended due to government shutdown and the number of people that have food insecurities is growing. She proposed a food drive in the Borough to be donated to Families 4 Families or CFA.

Angela Smith spoke to the issue of food drive and recently a school covered their football field in food bags. We should get the young people involved in this.

Before going into closed session, Mayor Giordano expressed that the Council should take the referendum and PILOT program very seriously.

**CLOSED SESSION** - Any matter permitted to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-302**

**Authorize Closed Session**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1-9)) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Waldwick, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussions of the Closed Session.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

- Possible Acquisition of Real Property
- Attorney/Client Privilege
- Contract Negotiations

It is anticipated at this time that the above-mentioned subject matter will be made public within 60 days or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so based on the conclusion of the matter.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Brennecke			X			
Cericola-Drake						X
Martinello		X	X			
Ramundo			X			
Ritchie	X		X			
Weber			X			
Mayor Giordano						

The Council convened into Closed Session at 8:37 pm. At 8:53 pm the Mayor and Council came back on the record of the Regular Meeting. Present on roll call: Mayor Giordano, Mr. Brennecke, Mr. Martinello, Mr. Ramundo, Mr. Ritchie and Mrs. Weber. Ms. Cericola-Drake was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council at its Regular Meeting on MOTION by Mr. Ramundo, seconded by Mr. Martinello and on roll call carried the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Adopted: December 16, 2025

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KELLEY HALEWICZ, RMC/CMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK