

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 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, Ms. Cericola-Drake, Mr. Martinello, Ms. Smith and Ms. Wingate. Mr. Ritchie was absent.

Also present: Kelley Halewicz, Municipal Clerk and 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. H2M – Water Quality Report Findings and Recommendations

Karen Benson and Patrick Cole, H2M provided an overview of the findings and recommendations from the Borough's water quality report.

Ms. Benson explained that their work started in January and continued until summer, with the first presentation taking place in July. H2M continued to gather data from the system and identified water quality issues along with recommendations and alternatives. This brought the project to the end of 2025 and into early 2026, leading to the current presentation.

Mr. Cole gave a slideshow presentation outlining the system, its issues, and ways to address them. He explained that H2M reviewed the water quality and developed recommendations to resolve the Borough's water.

The first recommendation is to continue hydrant flushing, which is already being done, but increase the frequency. This involves flushing to raise velocity, break off corrosion, and clear areas that have water discoloration.

The second recommendation is to intensify the hydrant flushing by expanding the frequency and scope if the licensed operator and superintendent continue to see improvements in water quality.

Mrs. Marquis noted that the Borough has already been working on the first recommendation.

The third recommendation is a process known as "pigging," which involves cleaning the interior of pipes using mechanical swabs, metal devices, or ice.

The fourth recommendation is unidirectional flushing using a portable mechanical pumping system. This achieves higher velocities than can be reached through standard system valving.

The first two recommendations are less costly, as they can be completed by the DPW staff. The last two would require outside contractors and could cost tens of thousands of dollars but could be broken into phases to avoid significant impacts to the municipal budget.

H2M also recommended considering pipe replacement as part of a long-term solution.

Council Comments:

Mayor Giordano shared that the Borough has already worked on some of these recommendations. He asked Superintendent Mike Latorre to provide an update on what has been done so far, and his level of confidence in the current approach and H2M's feedback.

Mr. Latorre explained that hydrant flushing began in early January, however inclement weather caused some delays. He noted they are halfway through the flushing program and there have been fewer complaints compared to past years. He is confident in the work being done.

Ms. Smith asked whether there has been a decrease in resident complaints.

Mrs. Marquis responded that complaints are now sent to the Water Department. They were previously received in large numbers but have decreased over the past six to eight months. She noted most complaints have been related to iron in the water.

Mr. Martinello suggested that complaints be logged and the data shared with the public. He also asked about the safety of the water for drinking, bathing and brushing teeth.

Mrs. Marquis referenced the form available on the Borough website for reporting concerns.

Mr. Cole explained that the Borough's water is consistently safe and reliable to drink.

Mrs. Cericola-Drake inquired if older complaints have been followed up on.

Mrs. Marquis responded that previous complaints were used as data as part of H2M's evaluation over the past year.

Ms. Smith asked for clarification regarding metals in the water.

Ms. Benson explained that metals are naturally occurring compounds.

Mr. Cole added that the most common metals found in water are iron and manganese. They are categorized as secondary contaminants and are not associated with health effects.

Mr. Martinello asked whether previous water main breaks and PFAS could have caused changes in the water.

Mr. Cole explained that they may have altered flow patterns in the system.

Mrs. Marquis explained that home filtration systems can sometimes mask issues.

Ms. Benson added that if there has been a change in water quality, they should consider the possibility of changes in the home that could be causing the issue.

Mr. Martinello inquired about H2M's plans for the rest of the year.

Mr. Cole stated that the summer months will provide a more predictable period to evaluate the system and determine the funding. He explained the situation is not an immediate threat to public health, which will give the Borough time to plan.

Public Comment

Mike Goodell has had communication with the Borough since July 2024 regarding his water. He asked if sampling has been taken at residences with complaints or if it's done within the area of the reported issues.

Mr. Cole confirmed that they have not sampled individual homes. Most water quality samples are from the distribution system during flushing.

Unidentified resident requested clarification on whether complaint data is based on location such as main streets, dead ends, or low and high elevated areas.

Mr. Cole confirmed that lower water velocities are found in dead-end areas within any water distribution system, including Waldwick.

Russ Anderson inquired if they have established measurable goals for water quality and asked for clarification on primary contaminants.

Mr. Cole stated that federal and State of New Jersey standards establish the limits for contaminants, and confirmed the Borough is compliant.

Margaret Hader requested information regarding pipe lining materials and microplastic pipes.

Mr. Cole explained that there are various lining methods available.

Laura Litchult shared that her daughter has to frequently change the filter in her water system. She is concerned about sludge that comes from it.

Mr. Cole carefully advised that it is difficult for individuals to properly maintenance the filtering in the water system. He reiterated that the testing of the water resulted in no primary contaminants.

Mrs. Marquis asked the online viewers for comments. No one wished to be heard.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mayor's Report. Mayor Giordano attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony and the Environmental Committee meeting. He noted the Environmental Chair was present at the meeting and will provide updates under New Business.

Financial & Administrative Committee. Mr. Martinello will hold comments to the budget introduction.

Fire & Police Protection Committee. Mr. Brennecke reported that the Fire Department has responded to 69 calls this year. He gave an update on the ladder truck and noted a replacement truck is expected by the end of the year.

For the Police Department, Mr. Brennecke reported updates on investigations, OPRA requests, and various patrol calls.

Public Safety Committee. Ms. Wingate attended the WALVAC and Board of Education meetings. She reported new drivers, the ongoing need for volunteers, and the new high school program. She also shared updates on school activities and events.

Recreation & Health Committee. Ms. Smith announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lions Club Playground scheduled for May 2. She wished luck to the students playing spring sports.

Public Works Committee. No report.

Buildings & Grounds Committee. Ms. Cericola-Drake reported that the Pistol Range Project is nearly complete, the final testing is underway and the system is operational.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Administrator. Mrs. Marquis will save her comments for the budget introduction.

Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Halewicz had no report.

Attorney. Mr. Bossong reported that the fourth round of affordable housing obligations has been submitted and is pending approval from the court. He does not anticipate issues. He added closed Session for this meeting is not needed.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-99

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:

2026-99 Approval of Consent Agenda

2026-100 Approval of Minutes - Regular & Budget Meeting and Closed Session Meeting, March 10, 2026

Policy Vote(s)

- a. Waldwick Tennis Camp requests to use one court at Veterans Park from July 6 to August 14, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
- b. Superstar Tennis requests to rent two tennis courts at Veterans Park from June 2 to August 27 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 -7:00 pm at the cost of \$1,500 per court

- c. Warriors Futbol Club requests to hold under 12 Practices Monday – Friday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Games Sundays 4/12 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm; 4/19 8:30 am – 12:00 pm; 4/26 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 5/3 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm; 5/10 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm; 5/17 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm; 5/31 9:00 am – 12:30 pm; 6/7 10:00 am – 12:30 pm; 6/14 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm.
- d. Reese LaTorre requests to hold a Block Party on October 10 from 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm with Smith Street to be closed between W. Prospect Street and Bohnert Place with alcoholic beverages being served
- e. Waldwick Education Foundation request to hold a Townwide Garage Sale on April 25 & April 26 (rain date May 2), requests for those participating to waive fee; hang sign/banner on Route 17 crosswalk; sign/banner along Route 17 by Waldwick/Sheridan Avenue exit Route 17 North; April 24 - April 26 (rain date May 2) participants permitted to display Garage Sale signs on their property with removal by April 27 (May 3) as stated in March 11, 2026 letter
- f. Waldwick Community Alliance request to hold the Annual Car Show event on Sunday, June 7 from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm (rain date June 14) as described in letter dated March 5, 2026
- g. Waldwick Community Alliance request waiver of fire inspection fees for the food service providers in connection with WCA Annual Car Show on June 7, 2026, rain date June 14, 2026

- 2026-101 Authorize Special Closed Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00 pm
- 2026-102 Approval of Social Affairs Permit for Waldwick Community Alliance Annual Car Show
- 2026-103 Cancellation and Refund of Taxes, Block 136, Lot 9
- 2026-104 Emergency Resolution to Extend the 2026 Temporary Budget
- 2026-105 Approval of Appropriation Transfers
- 2026-106 Payment of Vouchers

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)

Mayor Giordano asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2026-#03 by title.

Ordinance No. 2026-#03 - CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A-4-45.14)

Council Comments. None.

Mayor Giordano stated that a motion is in order to move and pass the ordinance on first reading and that it be advertised in the official newspaper of the municipality as required by law, setting a public hearing for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

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

Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget

Mrs. Marquis provided a slideshow presentation outlining the introduction of the 2026 municipal budget. She reviewed the timeline of the budget process, explaining that it began with meetings with department heads to evaluate needs for the upcoming year, and identifying areas where cuts can be made. Additional meetings were held with the Finance Committee to review the numbers. She shared the public hearing and adoption of the budget will take place in April.

Mr. Martinello also contributed comments to the presentation.

Council Comments

Mrs. Cericola-Drake acknowledged Mr. Martinello for raising concerns and thanked all involved in preparing the budget. However, she stated that she finds the 10% increase unacceptable. She expressed there are no long-term solutions to prevent similar increases in future years. She stated for those reasons she will be voting no.

Mr. Martinello agreed with the concerns regarding the tax increase, and that it is not an easy decision. He expressed the need for the entire Council to work together to find new sources of revenue. He added that the redevelopment on Harrison Avenue as a step in the right direction, but it will take time before the Borough sees significant revenue. He is not in favor of cutting employees or services, which is why he is supporting the increase this year.

Mrs. Smith agreed with Mr. Martinello's comments and echoed points made by Mr. Brennecke during their work session. She stated the increase is a temporary solution. She is also in support of exploring new sources of revenue.

Mr. Brennecke stated that he agreed with the comments. While he is not in favor of a tax increase, he also does not want to see services removed. He stressed the importance of planning ahead to avoid financial impact in the future.

Mayor Giordano also said that he is not in favor of raising taxes but agreed they should not cut staff or services. He stated that the Borough must explore opportunities for responsible redevelopment. He also commented on the process of creating committees and for the entire governing body to meet for important discussions moving forward.

Mr. Martinello added that all future contracts should be reviewed carefully and with an open mind to save on costs.

Mrs. Cericola-Drake expressed that all Council members should be included in budget discussions moving forward.

Ms. Wingate shared that she and Mrs. Smith recently attended a Council training course in Trenton. She found out other municipalities are experiencing similar budget issues. She thanked the administration and Mr. Martinello for reviewing the budget in detail. While she does not support raising taxes, she agreed that responsible redevelopment and generating new revenue are necessary. She is in support of the increase.

Mr. Martinello reiterated that this is a difficult decision, and at the same time the governing body must respond to residents' needs for services. He referenced the two new SLEO officers for school safety as an example that causes an impact but is needed for safety purposes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-107

Introduction of 2026 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Borough of Waldwick, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2026; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published on the official website of the Borough of Waldwick at www.waldwicknj.gov on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, and that a hearing on the Budget will be held in the Administration Building, Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 7:30 o'clock (PM) or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martinello thanked members of the Waldwick High School baseball team for assisting him with installing nets at Borough Park for the baseball season.

Mayor Giordano referenced poster boards in the back room that were presented by Crescent School students. He asked the Board of Ed president who was in attendance to thank them on behalf of the Governing Body.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Sheehy explained he was present on behalf of a request made by Mrs. Cericola-Drake regarding the Robotics Club. He added that the organization is a nonprofit 501c3 and that their request for space is for the club to grow and expand for all children in Waldwick.

Mrs. Cericola-Drake noted that other groups and organizations use Borough-owned buildings and expressed that the Borough should assist in their requests.

Mrs. Marquis clarified that the Robotics Club is currently using two Borough spaces for meetings.

Mr. Sheehy confirmed that the club does use Borough space on a weekly basis. He expressed appreciation for what has been provided. He added the club is in need of a space to use on a regular basis.

Mrs. Halewicz explained that there are many unavailable dates due to court and various board and committee meetings.

Ms. Wingate asked if the Robotics Club has reached out to the school.

Mr. Sheehy stated that he has spoken with members of the Board of Education, but they cannot accommodate them based on their needs.

Mr. Brennecke expressed support for the club and acknowledged the positive impact it has on the community. However, there is no available space that can be dedicated only to the club on a regular basis. He added they can only offer what is confined within Boroughs Limits.

Mrs. Smith suggested that the group consider fundraising for a new location that can better accommodate them.

Mike McMann expressed the need for a space in which equipment can remain set up.

Mrs. Marquis explained that the use of the 2nd floor room of the Ambulance building between Robotics Club and the Seniors has created safety concerns due to equipment left behind. She added space within the Administration Building is limited due to ongoing Board and Committee meetings throughout the week. At this time, the Borough is unable to provide a dedicated space exclusively for the Robotics Club.

Ms. Jennifer Devaou discussed the difficulty of transporting tables and equipment. Their season runs from August through the competition season, depending on how far the team advances. She also spoke of various benefits the club provides to members.

Mrs. Mary Mulvaney suggested that the Borough share information regarding current crime to residents.

Mayor Giordano said they will reach out to the Police Chief.

Ms. Laura Litchult spoke to the issue of odors coming from the sewer authority and inquired about the Borough's shared services with the Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Mrs. Marquis explained at the last council meeting they discussed a meeting between the Borough and Utility Authority. They will provide updated information from the Authority when they have it.

Mr. Bossong clarified that the Sewer Authority is not a shared service, but rather an independent municipal utilities authority in which the Borough is a customer. The oversight is handled at the County.

Ted Sanzo (via online) thanked Melissa in the Clerk's Office for responding to an issue involving an unleashed dog.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council at its Regular Meeting on MOTION by Mr. Brennecke, seconded by Mr. Martinello and on roll call carried the meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Adopted: April 14, 2026

KELLEY HALEWICZ, RMC/CMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK