

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK
HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 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: Steven J. Neale, Borough Administrator; Tatiana Marquis, Confidential Assistant; Kelley Halewicz, Municipal Clerk and Rob Devaney, Esq., for Municipal Attorney Craig Bossong.

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. Lifeguard Recognition Awards

Mayor Giordano, Lt. Troy Seifert and Tatiana Marquis presented Lifeguard Recognition Awards to Melanie Buschgans, Joseph Convertino, Jessica James, Isabella Schettino and Hailey Zirpoli who had three saves this season. Mayor Giordano commented that they all exemplify what it means to act and help save a life and he thanked them for being the heroes they are, for keeping our residents safe as they enjoy being a member of the Waldwick Pool.

b. Hoplite Communications, Peter Lupo

Mr. Lupo discussed the Borough's cell tower at 19 Industrial Park which is owned by Crown Castle International). The tower is worth approximately \$300,000. He believes now is the time to monetize \$77,000 immediately with another possible \$40,000. In addition, High Frequency Trader could be worth an additional \$80,000. Mr. Lupo recommends the Council end their lease which expires on August 17 and send termination notices to those on the tower now. Then send bid out to existing tenants; execute tower agreement between the Borough and carriers. The Borough Attorney and Pete have discussed this.

Mr. Martinello asked about the maintenance of the tower now that we own it as well as additional costs and HF traders. Mr. Lupo commented that while the Borough is responsible for maintenance, that would all be put on the carriers in their agreement. Also, insurance is roughly \$3,000-5,000 a year. Mr. Lupo will solicit and market HF traders.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mayor's Report. Mayor Giordano commented on conversation with BOE President Dan Marro regarding the recent school safety meeting where concerned parents want to know the cost of bussing their children to and from school, which was part of the poll the BOE conducted. The signs are up on Summit Avenue and the Police department and BOE will monitor this. Lastly, parents requested an additional crossing guard at the overpass in the HCA section. The Police department will monitor the activity in this area which has been low which is why the crossing guard was pulled from there to be placed in a more active area.

Mayor Giordano was pleased with the Teams meeting for the water, which included a great presentation by H2M as well as great question and answer session. Other meetings will be in person and on Teams soon.

Mayor Giordano reported that the meeting Lt. Seifert had regarding the Summit Avenue traffic pattern went well as there was a lot of misinformation out there. Lt. Seifert was able to clear up the concerns and questions during that session.

Financial & Administrative Committee. Mr. Ritchie reported on the two resolutions for the audit, and the auditor will be at the September meeting to go over the 2024 audit. There were no major findings just four minor ones. Mr. Ritchie discussed surplus and how since 2023 the Borough has been putting less back in each year but using more to balance the budget.

Mr. Ritchie discussed the energy tax resolution which will result in a \$400,000 shortfall in State aid as nothing has been budgeted by the State for the towns moving forward.

Fire & Police Protection Committee. Mr. Brennecke reported business as usual with the Fire department. There have been 23 calls, with 154 responses to date this year. The tower ladder is in need of repair as it suffered a malfunction. The department is in the process of obtaining quotes and then we will go out to bid for the repair. In the meantime, the Borough has coverage from surrounding towns, Allendale, Wyckoff.

Public Safety Committee. No report.

Recreational & Health Committee. Mr. Martinello congratulated the lifeguards on their lifesaving skills. The 12U team went to Cooperstown and he thanked the sponsors and individuals as this was a great experience. The team did well and made it to the playoffs, which is great for a small program. The fall sports are gearing up.

Mr. Martinello suggested residents look at the NWBRHC website as there are a number of very good programs for people of all ages.

Public Works Committee. Mr. Ramundo reported that there were concerns raised by a resident regarding a light behind the DPW in need of repair. It will be corrected. The DPW and Water Department have been working on McDonald Ave since last Sunday repairing a water main break and are looking to get that completed soon.

Buildings & Grounds Committee. Mrs. Weber reported that Lions Club playground is being regraded, and the equipment should be here in September. Improvements to Veterans Park include removal of tree to improve the walking path as well as fencing. Emmett Park entrance has also been improved. In Borough Park there will be upgrades to the walking path. The hot water heater was repaired in the Ambulance building.

Mrs. Weber thanked those who attended the Water meeting and H2M for a really great presentation as well as question and answer session.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Administrator. Mr. Neale reported on the resolution for personnel including the hiring of a police officer through alternate route, SLEO IIIs and part time Clerk for Police department which will include handling their OPRA requests.

Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Halewicz reported on the two additional policy votes for consideration tonight. The Clerk's office is gearing up for the General Election, November 4 working with the County to provide them with what they need.

Mrs. Halewicz commented on the following upcoming programs:

8/29 FREE Concert featuring the Waldwick Band sponsored by the Waldwick Lions Club, 7 pm, Borough Park

8/30 Recycling Center CLOSED

9/1 Borough offices and Recycling Center CLOSED in observance of Labor Day

9/1 Regular Monday Garbage Collection must be curbside no later than 6 am

9/3 Schools open – please drive carefully

9/24 Flu Clinic schedule from 12:30 – 1:30 pm Health Center on Whites Lane must make appointment in advance

Confidential Assistant. Mrs. Marquis recapped the bulk, heavy metal and electronic pick-up dates and deadlines. We ask that you refrain from putting things out to the curb until the night before pick-up. There is a BCUA Household Hazardous Waste event on Saturday, September 6. We have flyers in Borough Hall and on the website.

The pool continues to be successful as people are still registering every day. The revenue is up, and our Swim Team just finished this past weekend and did a fantastic job. We are thankful for Coach Meredith and Coach Makayla who ran on a great team and season.

Mayor Giordano asked if a survey would go out to residents at the end of the season regarding the pool. Mrs. Marquis confirmed that a survey would go out for both the pool and swim team.

Attorney. No report.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-222****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:

2025-222 Approval of Consent Agenda

2025-223 Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting, July 15, 2025

Policy Vote

- a. Waldwick Chamber of Commerce requests to "Turn the Town Teal" for the month of September for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month as per letter dated June 19, 2025
- b. Reese LaTorre requests to hold a Block Party on October 4 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm with Smith Street to be closed between W. Prospect Street & Bohnert Place with alcoholic beverages being served
- c. Caitlin Davis requests to use Pavilion A on August 31 from 2:00 pm- 6:00 pm for a party with alcoholic beverages being served
- d. Waldwick Soccer Association request to use Veterans Field for their 2025 fall season from August 18 – December 2 on Thursdays and Fridays from 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm/dusk, Saturdays from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm and Sundays 12:30 pm – dusk
- e. Waldwick Warriors Futbol Club Inc. requests to use temporary lights at Veterans Field for their fall 2025 season with the stipulation that the lights be used only when needed and shut off immediately when games end

2025-224 Call for Immediate Restoration of Energy Taxes to Municipalities

2025-225 Authorization for the Execution of an Application for New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Treatment Works Approval - Harrison Avenue Redevelopment LLC - Harrison Avenue, Block 107, Lots 1, 3, 5, 7-11

2025-226 Award a Fair and Open Contract to Waystar Industries Corp., for the Police Firing Range: Roofing & HVAC Replacement, \$767,000.00

2025-227 Choosing Not to Renew the Crown Castle Lease and to Assume Ownership of the Monopole at 19 Industrial Park

2025-228 Authorize Shared Services Agreement with the Village of Ridgewood for Expanded Polystyrene Packaging Recycling Services

2025-229 Authorize Waiver of Permit Fees for Waldwick Public Library for the Installation of a Pergola

2025-230 Authorize Waiver of Permit Fees for Borough of Waldwick for the Rehabilitation of the Malcolm Street Pumping Station

2025-231 Authorize Waiver of Retail Food Licensing Permit Fee for All Vendors Participating in the Chamber of Commerce Taste of Waldwick Event on October 13, 2025

2025-232 Approval of Raffle License - Waldwick Lions Club

2025-233 Appointment of Provisional Public Works Repairer - Esequiel Cortez

2025-234 Appointment of Jake Putterman as a Police Officer

2025-235 Appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officer III in the Police Department - Mario Cartas

2025-236 Appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officer III in the Police Department - Michael Christiansen

2025-237 Appointment of Part Time Clerk 1 in Police Department - Casey Vece

2025-238 Appointment of Per Diem Crossing Guard - Thomas Smith

2025-239 Accept Resignation of James Addis as Public Defender Effective August 25, 2025

2025-240 Award Professional Services Contract for Public Defender to William Quirk

2025-241 Accept the Resignation of Michael Braeske as Building Maintenance Worker Effective August 1, 2025

- 2025-242 Certification of the Annual Audit
 2025-243 Approval of Corrective Action Plan
 2025-244 Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayments - various
 2025-245 Payment of Vouchers

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

PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S)

Mayor Giordano asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-#XX by title.

Ordinance No. 2025-#17 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 48 FEES, SECTION 1-10.3 ESCROW FOR OFF-DUTY AND OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT BY POLICE OFFICERS, ITEM 4 TO INCREASE THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE TO 8%

Council comments. None.

Public comment. None.

Mayor Giordano closed the Public comment. Ordinance No. 2025-#17 was advertised and on second reading is adopted. This ordinance will go into effect immediately after approval and publication according to law.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)

Mayor Giordano asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-#18 by title.

Ordinance No. 2025-#18 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 48 FEES, SECTION 48:1 MISCELLANEOUS FEES, SUBSECTION 48:1-10.1 FEE SCHEDULE FOR PHOTOCOPYING AND OTHER FEES TO INCLUDE CALENDAR AD AND FEE FOR SAME

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, September 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Giordano spoke with John Denuvio from the Sewer Authority, and he reported that in the month of July there was no odor complaints connected to the Authority. They also recently hired Neglia to do fence and tree work around the area. They conducted a study at all buildings they own and tested the odor. The garage doors were replaced at any of the properties that were positive for odor. As they progress, they will let us know.

Mr. Ramundo thanked the Environmental Committee for the Styrofoam Collection in July. It is the first time in a while in which the attendance was high. He reiterated Tatiana's comments on the Styrofoam drop off in Ridgewood that will open opportunities for the Borough versus the use of Haskell in the past. He thanked the Environmental team, DPW and Mr. Sanzo in the audience for their due diligence.

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.

Ted Sanzo noted Resolution No. 2025-225 and asked if the earth at that location is contaminated.

Mr. Neale said it is a standard application for a new sewer connection for the planned development.

Angela Smith, a member of Waldwick Access for All spoke to the new park at Lions playground. She hopes the Lions Club will still have its name on it. She inquired about the process of having a tree with plaque in Brennan McCloud's memory, a boy who recently passed away.

Mayor Giordano explained that someone usually donates a tree, and the Borough would order a plaque. The Borough would maintain the tree until it's well planted. He suggested a fundraiser to be made to offset the costs. He asked Ms. Smith if he could share her contact information with Mr. Goodell who has done this work at numerous locations around Waldwick.

Catherine Hartmann shared that her household does private composting through a small business who does composting which is beneficial for the environment. She spoke with the business owner who said towns are welcomed to apply for programs that the town hosts. If Waldwick became a host town, we could charge fees to other towns who would use the services. This would increase our compost, be better for our carbon footprints and environment. She is inquiring how she could formally request a contract to be considered.

Mayor Giordano asked if the owner could attend the September meeting to do a presentation for the Mayor and Council.

CLOSED SESSION - Any matter permitted to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant 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. Ramundo and on roll call carried the meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Adopted: September 9 , 2025

KELLEY HALEWICZ, RMC/CMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK