

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 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, Ms. Cericola-Drake, Mr. Martinello, Mr. Ramundo and Mr. Ritchie. Mrs. Weber was absent.

Also present: Tatiana Marquis, Borough Administrator; 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 – None.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mayor's Report. Mayor Giordano welcomed Tatiana to her first meeting as Borough Administrator, wishing her well and knows we are in good hands.

Financial & Administrative Committee. Mr. Ritchie reported that the Finance Committee has not met but will do so in mid-to late October as they are letting Tatiana settle in. There are challenges ahead with the 2026 budget as we are looking at a 36.5% increase or \$450,000 for eligible employees. On the revenue side the energy tax receipts of which some have not been funded in Trenton. The state is collecting these energy taxes and should be giving them to the municipalities. They have failed to do this, leaving the Borough with a roughly \$2.5 million exposure. We can no longer work off state aid.

Fire & Police Protection Committee. Mr. Brennecke reported that in September the Fire Department had 26 calls. October is Fire Prevention Month with the Open House scheduled for October 9 at Fire Company #1. Also, the Fire Prevention Bureau will visit the schools to teach the students about fire prevention. Those visits are scheduled for October 6 and 7.

Public Safety Committee. Ms. Cericola-Drake had no report.

Recreational & Health Committee. Mr. Martinello reported on upcoming events. The Ragamuffin Parade on October 25, 10 am; Taste of Waldwick on October 13, 6-9 pm at the Village School. On the Health side, a Blood Pressure Screening is scheduled for tomorrow, October 1 from 11:45 am – 12:30 pm at the Health Clinics on Whites Lane. The annual Rabies Clinic will be held on November 6, 6-7 pm at the DPW Garage. Finally, the Waldwick Lions Club is holding a Blood Drive on October 16 from 4-8 pm.

Public Works Committee. Mr. Ramundo thanked the Water Department and Tatiana for keeping the Council updated on the water issue over the weekend. Fall leaf collection is set. The snowplow maintenance is taking place and the trucks will be ready. The new supervisor's truck was delivered.

Buildings & Grounds Committee. Mrs. Weber is absent but will have a report for the next meeting.

Mr. Brennecke commented that the tower ladder is out for extensive repair in Pennsylvania. The Borough has coverage from surrounding towns until the truck is returned.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Administrator. Mrs. Marquis is happy to be here at her first official meeting as Administrator. She has been meeting with department heads to discuss what we need to focus on moving forward.

Mrs. Marquis reported on the water issue over the weekend at the booster station. The Water Department was great at making the repairs quickly and working with our vendors. There was some loss in pressure in Districts 4 & 6 but the pressure has been returned to an appropriate level. The rest of the work on the booster station will take place soon.

With regards to Lions Park Playground, the equipment was delivered yesterday, and installation will take place this week. Great news for parents and children. The Police Firing Range HVAC/Roofing project will start mid-November which means the range will be closed until the project is complete.

Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Halewicz reported that everything is in order for Council consideration on the Annual WHS Grade Ball Calendar Raffle.

With regards to the General Election - November 4:

Oct 14 Last day to register to vote in the November 4 General Election. My office will be open until 7 pm. If residents receive a call or email from Melissa to pick up their dog license, you may do so on October 14 as well.

Official Mail-In Ballots for the 2025 General Election were mailed out to the voters in Waldwick with Active Vote by Mail Requests on September 23. Only voters with active vote by mail requests will receive their ballot within 3 days. Voters with active requests who do not receive their ballot within a week should call the County at 201-336-7020 to request a duplicate.

The deadline for the County to receive Vote by Mail Applications for this Election is 10/28/25.

The BCMCA will meet with the County Election officials to discuss the General Election procedures during our October 16 Business Meeting and Mini Conference.

We have already met with PD to go over any security issues as well as our plan to election returns.

Mrs. Halewicz explained errors in the calendar that affect the Curbside Leaf Collection and apologized for the errors.

Mrs. Halewicz congratulated Melissa on passing the RMC Records Management course last week. She has a few more classes and a review class to take before she sits for the RMC test in Trenton but is well on her way.

Attorney. Mr. Bossong reported that the Borough received their second PFOS check from the 3M suit. Payments received are \$212,293 and \$484,852. At this point, the remainder will be paid for over 8 years and decrease each year by 6% down to 2%. The other two suits are DuPont which will be a lesser amount. The Tyco/BASF suit is still in comment period, so this will not be completed until sometime next year.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-269****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:

2025-269 Approval of Consent Agenda

2025-270 Approval of Minutes - September 9, 2025

Policy Votes

- a. Stacy Caraccio request to hold a Block Party on October 31 from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm with Harrison Avenue to be closed between Frederick Street and Walter Nightengale Place with alcoholic beverages being served

2025-271 Supporting RevolutionNJ - Crossroads of the American Revolution; Waldwick's Living History

2025-272 Approve Raffle License 2025-07 for 2025/2026 Waldwick High School Graduation Ball Association Calendar Raffle

2025-273 Appointment of Municipal Housing Liaison - Tatiana Marquis

2025-274 Appointment of the Municipal Recycling Coordinator - Tatiana Marquis

2025-275 Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer - Tatiana Marquis

2025-276 Appointment of Designated Employee Representatives

2025-277 Amending the Appointment of Jake Putterman as a Police Officer

2025-278 Approval of Salary - Melissa Librizzi, Clerk 1

2025-279 Appointment to the Waldwick Green Team

2025-280 Authorization to Cancel and Refund Taxes for 100% Veteran Exemption: Block 149, Lot 59

2025-281 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-#19 by title.

Ordinance No. 2025-#19 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 FIRE DEPARTMENT, SECTION 9 INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION PROTECTION, SUBSECTION 2(B)2 COMPENSATION OTHER THAN INSURANCE AND LIABILITY TO INCREASE PERCENTAGES

Council comments. None.

Public comment. None.

Mayor Giordano closed the Public comment. Ordinance No. 2025-#19 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		X			
Martinello			X			
Ramundo					X	
Ritchie		X	X			
Weber						X
Mayor Giordano						

Councilmen Brennecke & Ramundo abstained from Ordinance No. 2025-#19 due to affiliation with the Fire Department.

Mayor Giordano asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-#20 by title.

Ordinance No. 2025-#20 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-#15, FIXING THE COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK TO INCREASE RANGE FOR MUNICIPAL CLERK AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Council comments. None.

Public comment. None.

Mayor Giordano closed the Public comment. Ordinance No. 2025-#20 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	X			
Ramundo					X	
Ritchie	X		X			
Weber						X
Mayor Giordano						

Councilmen Brennecke & Ramundo abstained from Ordinance No. 2025-#20 due to affiliation with the Fire Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-282**Authorize Salaries - Municipal Clerk and Fire Department**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted Ordinances which sets the salary ranges for certain Borough Employees effective January 1, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Waldwick that, in accordance with previously adopted Ordinances the annual base salary or hourly rate of each Borough Official and Employee is listed on the schedule annexed hereto and made a part hereof; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rate or compensation of any other Borough Official or Employee heretofore fixed but not mentioned herein shall be deemed to be unaffected by the adoption of this resolution and shall continue as heretofore fixed or established.

	ADMINISTRATIVE & EXECUTIVE	
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Kelley Halewicz	Municipal Clerk	\$135,000.00*
*Effective September 29, 2025		

	<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>	
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Andrew Agugliaro	Chief	\$3,500
Michael Ferrara	1 st Asst. Chief	\$1,200
David Guy	1st Captain	\$800
Matthew Amos	2 nd Captain	\$800
Christopher Moses	1 st Lieutenant	\$500
Christina Agugliaro	President	\$400
Keith Hockenbeck	Vice President	\$200
Daniel Wagnes	Secretary - NIFRS	\$750
Derrick Delgado	Secretary	\$400
James O'Connell	Treasurer	\$200
All Fire Department positions effective January 1, 2025		

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

Councilmen Brennecke & Ramundo abstained from 2025-282 due to affiliation with the Fire Department.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)

Mrs. Halewicz commented that Ordinance No. 2025-#21 is being pulled from the agenda to explore other avenues.

Mayor Giordano asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-#22 by title.

Ordinance No. 2025-#22 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF WALDWICK TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE WALDWICK HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BALL, INC. FOR USE OF THE OLD DPW COMPLEX

Council Comments. Mr. Bossong explained that this ordinance is done each year as the Grad Ball Committee changes each year and this allows each class to know what is required for use of the Old DPW Complex.

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 October 14, 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		X			
Ramundo			X			
Ritchie			X			
Weber						X
Mayor Giordano						

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Ritchie commented on the Sewer Authority and asked if we have the data yet. He went out and purchased an H2S reader and took readings the other night that registered 1-2 ppm. The Borough needs to press the Authority for that data.

Mr. Ritchie was looking for an update from the Water Committee.

Mrs. Marquis responded that H2M has worked with DPW to get our data downloaded and uploaded to their system. Also, Mrs. Marquis has requested the date for the fall-in-person meeting.

Mr. Ritchie requests that we revisit the second property on Wyckoff Avenue that was not sold. As redevelopment occurs down here, we can balance out any new structures with open space.

Our capital structure is strong; our debut service has not increased in 10 years, so what we bond out is under pretty good control. With regards to potential redevelopment opportunities, he would like to balance out with open space. The Borough could probably purchase it at a reasonable price. We should begin negotiating for that property. At a minimum we will own a piece of property that down the road could be sold for profit.

Ms. Cericola-Drake asked about the PFAS remediation and trees being planted to screen from residents as the tanks are quite large and eye sore.

Mrs. Marquis explained that the plan is to do just that but everyone needs to keep in mind that there is equipment underground of those tanks so it may not be possible to screen as close as residents are requesting.

Mr. Martinello asked if any developers have come forward for Rite Aid or Giant Market parcels.

Mrs. Marquis responded that the Borough has not been approached by anyone at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ramundo commented on the Environmental Committee Styrofoam Collection event that took place on Saturday. It was the third event this year and they filled the dumpster by 11:30 am. We received assistance from Troop 88, the Allendale Environmental Chair and Green team members. Now that we are using Ridgewood, they return the bags, which are great and saved us some money. We have saved 20,000 lbs of Styrofoam from being placed in the landfill.

Mr. Ramundo commented that the Environmental Committee is interested in walking the Wagner property to provide input along with other groups so that when the proposal goes into Green Acres, we propose what will be helpful to the town.

Mrs. Marquis mentioned that she and Mrs. Halewicz walked the property last week and looked at it closely at it and it's a great piece of property for the Borough.

Mr. Ritchie wanted to make sure that we are all discussing Green Acres before we apply for a grant that ties us to the property forever. Mr. Ritchie is concerned about a grant that restricts our ability to sell this property in the future if we need to. The purchase was great for open space and an investment but future Council Members may have different ideas and he would not want to restrict their ability to sell the property.

Mrs. Marquis explained that we are waiting for grant application to open and send the collective plans are from the Council to Green Acres. Steve had worked with Green Acres to get that moving and all that paperwork has been completed and submitted. They are aware we have a new Administrator.

Mr. Ramundo commented that with regards to the Wagner property, he thought we purchased it with the intent from Mr. Wagner that it be a park, not for us to make a profit. Hoping we are not in the business of buying property at a reduced price to sell it for a profit.

Mr. Ritchie does not have any intent of selling the property, but he believes that applying for Green Acres monies then ties us to that property forever and future Council Members would not be able to sell it if they wanted or needed to. We are living through the Sewer Authority which was a bad idea all those years ago and now we have to deal with it because we are tied to it. It is not his intent to sell it but we should have an open conversation about it.

Mr. Martinello wished those celebrating a happy Yom Kippur.

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.

Angela Smith commented that WAFA met last night, and the Sean Fischer entrance is uneven and makes it difficult for wheelchairs to maneuver it. Mrs. Smith looks forward to working with Tatiana and having her attend a meeting.

Ted Sanzo (remote) spoke to the issue of forming a Tree Bank tied to redevelopers planting a number of trees but then a number would go into a bank so residents don't need to pay the \$450 replacement fee. He will be making inquiries in Borough Hall.

Mayor Giordano commented that he suggests Ted speak with Joe in the Building department. The Mayor will also bring it up at the Planning Board meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Bossong commented that the \$450 is only if the resident does not want to plant a replacement tree. If the resident plants the tree, there is no fee.

JoAnn Mitchell (remote) congratulated Tatiana for being appointed the Business Administrator for the Borough and looks forward to a wonderful term. Will the Borough establish a committee for the 250th Anniversary.

Mayor Giordano explained that he has already approached the schools and library to participate. We had a meeting with WCA representatives to focus on Walldwick's history for the anniversary. They have a well-thought-out plan and we will look to putting a committee together.

Stan Kowalski spoke to the issue of the cell towers.

Mrs. Marquis responded that Peter Lupo explained the process a few meetings ago. All the providers were notified, which took some time. New agreements are being drawn up as well as openings for new providers.

Chuck Wanamaker spoke to the issue of the 250th Anniversary and what WCA wants to do in and around the train station. We will need approval from the town for this.

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 8:13 pm.

Adopted: October 14, 2025

KELLEY HALEWICZ, RMC/CMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK