

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 11, 2022

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 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 8, 2021. 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, LoGrippo, Katz, Mackey, Dardia, Contract, and Root

ABSENT: None

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Habgood

Salute to the flag.

APPOINTMENTS

OPENING REMARKS

Town Administrator Update

The Town Administrator provided an update on leaf collection. Leaf brochures will be mailed out later in the week. There are a few significant changes to the program this year which includes the Department of Public Works picking up on six consecutive Saturdays in a row to help with efficiency. This will help the leaf pickups in areas that are busier during the weekdays such as around the schools. In addition, communication for the collection will be very robust through Nixle. On the evening before each day a Nixle alert will be issued for where the Public Works crews where and where they anticipate being the next morning. Leaf collection is expected to start on November 7th and end no later than December 17th (weather depending). Leaf bagging is highly encouraged for residents. Free leaf bags are available at the Conservation Center starting October 20th starting with 10 bags per resident.

The Town Administrator reminded residents final tax bills have been sent out to and are due November 1st with a ten-day grace period. Residents can pay online, in person or through the mail.

Lastly, the Town Administrator discussed paving throughout Town. The town's paving project is completed which paved roughly 5.5 miles of roads. Elizabethtown Gas is continuing to do work and have paved 15 roads thus far. The Town is waiting for the schedule for paving of East Broad Street and roads connected. East Broad Street is expected to be paved within the next two months which span from North Euclid to Springfield Avenue. New Jersey American Water Company completed their infrastructure project and will begin milling and paving the Rahway Avenue grid from Willow Grove Road to Leigh Drive and connecting streets that were involved in their utility infrastructure project. This is expected to be completed by the end of October. The County has also announced they will be paving section of South Avenue starting by the traffic circle going towards Cranford. This work will be conducted overnight starting at the end of the week, weather permitting. Union County also started work on Central Avenue this week replacing ADA compliant ramps. The Town is on pace to have over 20 miles of roads paved this year. The Town Administrator noted the Town Engineer is a consultant who works in multiple municipalities and the Town of Westfield has paved more roads this year than a combination of the Engineer's other municipalities.

The Town Administrator encouraged residents to sign up for Nixle alerts and check the Town's website for updates.

The Town Administrator introduced Drew Ertman. Drew spoke about an upcoming event Race 4 The Children being held on October 16th in Warinanco Park, Roselle. This race is sponsored by a non-profit organization, the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center of Union County, New

Jersey. They raise funds that assist in paying for the costs associated with mental health intake evaluation and treatment for children at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, and depression following the disclosure of sexual abuse.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Brindle presented the following proclamation:

Town of Westfield Westfield, New Jersey Proclamation

WHEREAS, the sovereign nation of Ukraine has been invaded by Russian military forces without cause; and

WHEREAS, countless civilians and military personnel have been injured and killed by indiscriminate shelling and bombing instigated by Russia's authoritarian regime; and

WHEREAS, the invasion of Ukraine and attacks against its people have been broadly condemned by the United States, leadership of the European Union, Great Britain and numerous other countries; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people around the world have condemned these acts of violence to show their support for the Ukrainian people; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield is home to a robust and thriving Ukrainian community; and

WHEREAS, our Ukrainian neighbors are experiencing pain, hardship and grief due to the aggression in Eastern Europe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, and the Town Council of Westfield, stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian neighbors as well as the people of Ukraine as they bravely defend their country, their freedom, and their lives.

Mayor Brindle presented the following proclamation:

Town of Westfield Westfield, New Jersey Proclamation

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2022

WHEREAS, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15; and

WHEREAS, the observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and was then expanded into a month-long celebration in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Several Latin American countries celebrate their Independence Anniversaries on September 15 including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua with Mexico and Chile celebrating their Independence Day on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 theme, “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation”, encourages us to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latino individuals continue their rich history of significant and diverse contributions to the cultural, educational, economic and political vitality of our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, along with the members of the Town Council, hereby designate September 15 to October 15 as ***National Hispanic Heritage Month*** in the Town of Westfield, and I encourage all residents to honor the rich diversity of the Hispanic and Latino communities and celebrate the many ways they contribute to our community.

OPENING MARKS CONTINUED

Mayor’s Update

Good evening, everyone, and thanks to all who are joining us both here in the Council Chambers and online tonight. As a reminder, public comment will be accepted in person only, and we are live streaming for viewing only via Facebook. As always, the replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36.

NEW BUSINESSES

The momentum in Downtown Westfield continues! Since we last met, I’ve attended ribbon cuttings for [Kirshenbaum Baking Co.](#) and [Reves Smoothie Café](#), both of which are excellent additions to our downtown. [Mimi & Hill](#)’s ribbon cutting on their new and expanded downtown location is scheduled for next week, [Akai Lounge - Westfield](#) will be opening the doors of their new Elm Street location in early November, and we anticipate design showroom AHD & Co will be opening around the same time. We also learned that Fresh & Co will open early next year in the space formerly occupied by Carlo’s Bakery. It’s a very exciting time for Downtown Westfield!

ONE WESTFIELD PLACE PREVIEW CENTER

Speaking of revitalizing our downtown, I hope by now that you’ve had an opportunity to learn more about the HBC | Streetworks Development proposal for One Westfield Place. Since their presentation at the September 20 Town Council meeting, I’ve heard from many residents, most expressing cautious enthusiasm, and everyone wanting to learn more. There are several ways in which you can do just that:

Request an appointment at onewestfieldplace.com to visit the Preview Center at 76 Elm Street. This space (formerly Chico’s) has been completely transformed by HBC | Streetworks Development to provide residents and business/commercial property owners the opportunity to see a full scale model of the proposed project, ask questions, and provide feedback. These appointments provide for in-depth tours given by the leadership of HBC | Streetworks Development, and often last 60-90 minutes after Q+A.

The Preview Center is currently available by appointment only to avoid early crowds, and those who have requested appointments have begun to receive dates for those initial visits. That outreach will continue to ramp up and, as they continue to add more staff, the space will open up for walk-in traffic in the next few weeks, which will be less structured in nature for those who are not looking for dedicated time with the developers to ask questions. In addition, HBC | Streetworks Development will host two open houses next week at the Preview Center – one on Friday, October 21, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM, and another on Saturday, October 22, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. To RSVP for one of these events, please email info@streetworksdev.com.

You can also visit the onewestfieldplace.com website, where HBC | Streetworks Development has expanded the online content to include many additional project details, FAQs, and renderings for the community.

Lastly, please read the comprehensive FAQs that were posted on the Town website (westfieldnj.gov/994/One-Westfield-Place-FAQs), which address a range of topics and will continue to expand. If you would like to see a question included please submit it to info@onewestfieldplace.com. I would suggest reviewing the FAQs before visiting the Preview Center to best maximize your time there.

Please refer to these sources of information to receive facts about the project as opposed to speculation that may circulate on social media. It's important that you provide input based upon factual, reliable information in order to ensure it's considered and incorporated. Your participation in this exciting process is critical as we work together to shape the future of our downtown.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Walk the Chalk

Join the Human Relations Advisory Commission tomorrow for another "Walk the Chalk" event at Jefferson School, just after dismissal at 3:05. This is a great family activity to help promote inclusion and diversity in the community. We appreciate the support of Principal Hung, as well as the Westfield Police Department, and look forward to seeing you there tomorrow.

AddamsFest

With the arrival of October, AddamsFest is back and better than ever! This fifth annual celebration honoring our own Charles Addams has a great line up with something for everyone! You can find full details at addamsfest.com.

Westfield Optimist Club and WPD Halloween Festivities

Don't miss the Halloween festivities for the whole family on Sunday, October 23 in Mindowaskin Park! The afternoon's events kick off at noon with the Westfield Police Department's second annual Cops and Goblins event, followed by the Westfield Optimist Club Halloween Parade at 2pm featuring the Westfield High School Marching Band. Note that the parade requires advance registration (www.wpdnj.org/halloween), limited to the first 500 children in Pre-K through grade 5.

Thanks to our Police Department and dedicated volunteers from the Optimist Club for bringing these events to the community!

Councilwoman Mackey encouraged residents to visit the Art Exhibit at the Rialto which features artwork by children who took a cartooning workshop in the summer. This will be side-by-side with Charles Addams original artwork on display. There is also a historical cemetery tour by the presbyterian church as well as an adult magic show & séance at Addams Tavern. October 16th there will be a free event on Quimby Street "Addams Family Fun Zone" and welcomed families and all to enjoy! Councilwoman Mackey suggested residents to check www.addamsfest.com for schedules and upcoming events.

AppleFest

Don't miss the [Westfield Historical Society's](#) 14th Annual AppleFest on Saturday, October 15, from 12:00 - 5:00 at The Reeve House. The event will feature live music, food, a student art contest, children's games, pumpkin painting, and more. If you have a great recipe, the event is seeking more entries for the beloved apple pie contest, which I am fortunate enough to be judging! I look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun-filled afternoon. For more information, visit the Westfield Historical Society's website.

United by Light

Thank you to the [Westfield United Fund](#) for launching Westfield United by Light, an event to shine a light on mental health. With the help of the community, WUF plans to light up Westfield on November 27 with candlelight luminaries lining the streets. Funds raised from the sale of candle kits will go to mental health programs at WUF agencies, including Caring Contact, Imagine, Jewish Family Service, Youth & Family Counseling, and YWCA Union County. For more information and to purchase a candle kit, visit westfieldunitedfund.org/unitedbylight.

CME REPORT ON EDISON FIELDS

Lastly, I'd like to hand it over to Councilman Katz, as liaison to the Recreation Commission to briefly address the results of the CME report that this council commissioned in order to obtain an independent assessment of the Edison Fields proposal.

[Remarks by Councilman Katz:]

Thank you Mayor. As you mentioned, the purpose of the CME report was to obtain an independent analysis of Edison Fields, following questions and concerns that were raised by residents. We received the final report in late September, at which time it was released to the public and can be found on our website.

The report is the result of five months of work and a very robust intake process, including discussions with the Recreation Commission, Board of Education members, Board of Education staff including the Athletic Director, sports leagues, and members of the local neighborhood group that has remained highly engaged on this project. We are grateful to everyone for their input to help make the outcome as comprehensive as possible.

For background, the scope of work CME was tasked with was a comprehensive review of the existing plan and the following evaluations:

- Assess and verify upfront costs, maintenance and upkeep costs over time, incremental capacity achieved, and other key assumptions used for both synthetic turf and natural grass options with and without lights.
- Calculate cost per playing hour for all options
- Provide pros/cons of options including comparison of incremental benefits of each solution relative to expense and capacity, such as reliability and expected maintenance downtime
- Make a recommendation on the best path forward for the Edison Fields project
- I encourage everyone to read the report and its supporting details, where CME concluded that the cost of natural grass fields with lights is \$213.75 per playable hour, and synthetic turf fields with lights is \$96.11 per playable hour.

Following the release of the report, I had the opportunity, as Recreation Commission liaison, along with my fellow members of the Council's Finance Policy Committee, to ask CME some questions about some of their findings and to ensure that their underlying assumptions were satisfactory.

There have been some concerns raised, including a few letters to the editor in the local press by residents, and I wanted to take this opportunity to provide the public with some reassurance about the findings of the report. In our meeting with CME, they provided additional context and backup for their analysis and assumptions, all based upon their professional experience in installing both grass and artificial turf fields around the state. Specifically, they further validated their assumptions around turf replacement timelines, turf replacement costs, and playable hours. While we were satisfied with their responses, we also ran our own analysis using various sensitivities to ensure that it was robust. As a result, quantitatively, the conclusion doesn't change: Artificial turf fields with lights will provide us, on a cost per playing hour basis, more efficiencies. Moreover, turf fields will offer us many qualitative benefits that must be noted – reliability of field availability (even with increasing weather severity), as well as an upgrade to school and Town amenities that can be utilized by a much broader range of athletic participants.

As it relates to the safety, parking and traffic, and environmental and flooding concerns, these points continue to be taken very seriously by this Council and, as you've heard from me, other Recreation Commission members, and other Town Council members, we're committed to being good partners with the Board of Education, the neighbors near Edison, and the sports teams and leagues to address concerns about field scheduling, traffic/parking issues, and drainage. If we move forward with this project, these concerns would be addressed in design, NJDEP approval requirements, and bid specs so that we deliver fields that are safe, environmentally sensitive, and that mitigate the impact on the neighborhood.

We are continuing our conversations with the Board of Education regarding next steps and, as always, we will keep you apprised.

With that, let's get to work. Thank you.

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

PENDING BUSINESS

BIDS

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Mackey and seconded by Councilman LoGrippe, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Conference Session and Regular Meeting held September 20, 2022.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

OPEN DISCUSSION BY CITIZENS

Councilman Contract made comments regarding the statement from Councilman Katz. Councilman Contract does not feel the entire Finance Policy Committee fully supported the CME report. He does not think there is universal support for CME's assumptions. Councilman Contract thinks the analysis is still on-going. Councilman Contract stated Councilman Katz comments were too conclusionary and Councilman Contract wanted to state he feels the reports conclusions were not solid and need more work. He does not think Councilman Katz's comments were accurate.

Mayor Brindle opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Zach Feldman, 972 Woodmere Drive, is a fourth grader at Franklin Elementary School, and plays soccer, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, and flag football in Westfield. He would like to see new playing fields at Edison. He explained some of his team practices and games on grass get cancelled when it rains as the fields take a few days to dry. Zach's soccer home games are played in Garwood and Edison, while Lacrosse are played at Ponderosa in Scotch Plains. He feels new turf fields with lights to Edison School would let the kids practice and play games in Westfield. He stressed this would mean less long car rides and the kids would be able to take pride in their beautiful hometown when they play other teams. He feels that they should approve this project so that children like him could play on these fields.

Frank McIntyre, 902 Prospect Street, would like to address his concerns for the HBC| Streetworks - One Westfield Place project. He expresses his gratitude for those in public service in trying to improve experiences for residents. He questioned if the PILOT program that town is offering is covering the private land of HBC as well. He feels that the town could go out to public bid and ask other requests for proposals to see if any other companies would be interested. He is concerned about the PILOT tax prices and that program would be taking money away from the schools. He feels this project should be put to a public vote. He would like to learn more about the PILOT program and understand how HBC | Streetworks became the only developer that's only possible for this private program especially related to their own private property. He also asked Councilwoman Habgood when the stripped lines on Prospect Street were going to be removed.

Councilwoman Habgood responded by saying that they are expected to be removed by the end of October.

Chloe Martin, 639 Summit Avenue, is a student athlete and would like for the Council to give the current and future athletes the necessary tools to excel in their sports with limited injuries and decreased travel time to use other town's facilities. Union, Maplewood, and Clark are recent examples of towns of similar opposition, but they came together to make it happen. She believes that turf fields are what they need.

Sandra Mamary, 180 Cottage Place, is the Athletic Director at Westfield High School. She spoke about recently won Shoprite Cup Award. She expressed that she would like for the Council to vote for the Edison School Fields Turf Project. Edison Intermediate Schools has over 735 students in the building and all the students participate in physical education by law in the fields across the street at Kehler Stadium. She reiterated that scheduling is a nightmare because of the bussing to the various towns such as Chatham and Metuchen so that they can practice on a turf field and be prepared for their games. Sports such as field hockey must be played on turf. She has never seen Westfield behind and right now, she feels that the town is behind in terms of

not having turf fields for the students to play. By adding another turf field, the students would be able to get home earlier to complete their homework and spend time with their families.

Bryan Crawford, 795 Knollwood Terrace, is a father of a student at Edison School who also is involved in sports and is aware of the field situation. He feels it is great that many young people came to the meeting to discuss the field project and wanted to share there was a plan for fields years ago that Mayor Brindle shelved. He discussed the school budget voting process moving to April. Mr. Crawford requested the Town stop bullying the Board of Education over athletic fields. He feels this project does not align with the school district's mission, strategies, or objectives. This project conflicts with each of the district's recently approved goals which also puts it in conflict with the district and state regulations around the leasing of school property. He thinks athletic fields should be built on town-owned land and there is enough space for fields at Memorial Park or Tamaques. He voiced his opinion relating to staying off school property and harassing the school board.

Jerome Feder, 789 Knollwood Terrace, spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protections visit on March 15th, that the Town Administrator arranged at the Robinson Branch of the Rahway River alongside Edison fields is in poor shape, and it needs construction. Hurricane Ida highlighted the risk to the life and property and recent storms are also reaching higher water levels although not as high as Ida. There was a report issued on August 16, 2022, because of that report, unfortunately, Westfield is now included in the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Study that is assessing federal interest that could garner money and a larger project that is helpful. He believes there is a serious problem in terms of flooding, and he is looking to see if there are any solutions.

Tim Eaton, 762 Knollwood Terrace, discussed the current Edison plan and his concerns. He feels the current plan will have significant increases in activity at night with practices and games that will cause congestion, traffic, parking, and safety concerns. The lights and noise pollution will ruin the quality of life of nearby neighborhoods. Neighborhoods will become parking lots for the overload of vehicles due to insufficient parking at the school. Chemicals such as PFAS and lead are a part of the turf and are known to cause cancer lung ailments, endocrine disorders, and other diseases. PFAS does not metabolize, instead they build up in the body and can cause future health problems. The experts that have spoken, have warned us that these health concerns have no other agenda than to attack the safety and the health of the children and other users of the fields. Artificial turf emits toxic gases, sheds particles onto the field and into the atmosphere that can be inhaled. The creek next to the field will become polluted from the turf which contaminates the neighborhoods and sending contaminated water downstream to other neighborhoods. The soil under the turf will become contaminated. When artificial turf gets too hot, it becomes hard and non-contact injuries will increase of significance. The NFL players association have petitioned against artificial turf for this reason. Artificial turf is not recyclable, and it must be replaced every 8-10 years. He thinks a better alternative would be natural organic grass fields at multiple locations with no tower lights and professional field managers. This solution would increase field capacity and it is the most equitable. Mr. Eaton believes the CME report did not provide a holistic analysis of the athletic field situation in Westfield.

Steven Barandica, Athletic Trainer at Westfield High School, voiced he is a certified and licensed professional with over 10 years of experience with multiple high schools. He stated the research on grass fields and turf fields are often done in optimal environments for growth. He feels that Westfield is not a Town and region of the country that experiences all three seasons. The fields in Westfield tend to get harder when there is a lack of precipitation. When there is rain, the grass becomes too "silky" and too muddy for the students to play. He has seen an increase of injuries in feet, ankles, and knees when playing at fields such as Tamaques, Edison, and Roosevelt. Steven discussed a study by Cornell University and the results showed that when the fields get hard like fields in Westfield, there is an increase in bone and concussive head injuries which are more traumatic than injuries seen in turf such as ligament or muscle injuries. Overtime, turf fields have evolved and the shoes that are used have been enhanced to handle any traction and defeat safety concerns on turf fields.

Kieren Chacko, 836 Tice Place, discussed that by not having turf fields in Westfield impedes on his ability to finish his homework and get to bed on time has been extremely difficult because they travel to fields further away.

Elizabeth Chacko, 836 Tice Place, expressed that she is very excited about the turf fields as she is a mother of students that play sports in Westfield. Having another turf field in town would help to relieve capacity and provide another spot for the children to play and easily walk to. Municipalities such as Summit and Millburn have multiple lit turf fields. She hopes that they would consider the turf fields for the students and the sports community.

Anthony Buoscio, 639 North Chestnut Street is currently a senior at Westfield High School and he plays both varsity soccer and lacrosse. During both soccer and lacrosse season, due to limited turf fields, his team is forced to practice behind Tamaques Park and Ponderosa Park in Scotch Plains, this occurs over 3 times a week. The athletic teams can greatly benefit from turf fields because of the decrease in game cancellation caused by rain or inclement weather. In addition, the importance of location of the fields behind Edison is almost as important as the field itself. Kehler Stadium houses all locker rooms for many sports and where the athletic training office is located. The turf fields will make practices safer, less injuries among players, make our fields more accessible to youth teams and teams traveling to play on Westfield fields.

Sam Altman, 620 Greenbriar Court, stated he is a Junior in High School advocating for the Edison School Field Turf Project. He mentioned a previous speakers comments believing it is a win-win for the school and community but wanted to make sure the voices of the athletes and students are heard as well. He feels it is important to understand the point of views of the student athletes. Sam spoke about the student athletes reaching their fullest potential and having the proper fields in place would accelerate that. Sam echoed that the athletes should be able to train, play and be coached under the best conditions to help them succeed. Sam also spoke about many residents being in opposition of issues in Town and feels the voices of the younger generation need to be heard as well. He asked the Council to consider their viewpoints and values and to form a student advisory committee where students can express their wants and needs. This should go beyond the field conversations and keep students and the younger generation informed on all topics that are happening in the Town.

Peter Lyons, 741 Stevens Avenue, thanked the Mayor & Council for their efforts and hard work on the Edison School Fields Project. He took issue with a comment made by a previous speaker who said the Council is bullying the Board of Education. He feels this is not the case at all and the Board of Education has dropped the ball. He has lived in Westfield for 12 years, and previously volunteered for the Westfield Soccer Association and is knowledgeable on the various fields in Town. He is in favor of the project and hopes more field projects will happen in the future. Mr. Lyons is disappointed the Board of Education has not made field improvements in the years he has been a resident when monies are allocated in the school budget for field maintenance.

Amanda Como, 572 Highland Avenue asked the Council various questions on including, will the Council and Board of Education both vote on the Edison School Fields Project in terms of the process, timing of the vote, and relocation of a Board of Education member. Amanda also asked the Council if there were any concerns on redevelopments without having any project completed, if there are any concerns with negative consequences of the Council's actions and are there actions in place in case of poor decision making.

Kerry Murphy, 502 Coddling Road spoke in opposition of redevelopment in the Town. She requests that a non-binding referendum vote be set in place for the Streetworks Development project. She feels this is an ill-conceived plan without facts. She asks the Mayor and Council many questions including; if enough data has been shared with taxpaying residents regarding redevelopments in town, what are the potential tax consequences of a PILOT program and how it will impact the schools. She feels the Master Plan did not have enough survey respondents. Mrs. Murphy asks for the data, which lays out the numbers of all those that would like to downsize into all these developments along with data for infrastructure needs, traffic & safety concerns, filling the retail space. She is concerned with the redevelopment happening not only through HBC | Streetworks but other projects in town and how it will affect everyone. She reiterated her request for a non-binding referendum vote.

Nuno Rodrigues, 1219 Boulevard, asked when the temporary islands on Boulevard become permanent.

Councilman LoGrippe stated next month.

Nuno Rodrigues continued his time by making comments about the Edison School Field Project and echoed Peter Lyons' comments that the Board of Education is not being bullied by the Town. He feels the students, Town Council & Board of Education all want what is for the good of the community and is disappointed when topics arise that cause separation. He thinks if there is an opportunity that would benefit the Town and the students it should move forward. He mentioned the previous plan that was put in place for Tamaques Park and hopes this project does not end up in the same situation.

Sean Smith, 605 Westfield Avenue, has been a resident of Westfield for 13 years and is heavily involved in the athletics of the Town. He complimented the Town for the Westfield Memorial Pool, the Council involvement in COAH conversations, and the many student athletes that are partaking in the political process at the meetings and having their voices be heard. Sean stated the residents of Westfield are extremely active in engagement but sometimes that engagement is what holds the Town back. He speaks on the lack of funding for recreation programs and poor condition of the fields when money could be spent on improvements. He discussed the process of the Master Plan and the Recreation Commission recommendation for the Edison School Field Project. He further discussed the need for a shared service plan with the Board of Education. Despite the separation from the Board of Education and Town Council he reminded the Council everyone is part of the Westfield community. He explained all of the surrounding municipalities have turf or sports complexes in neighborhoods. He does not feel research the opposition groups have put forth are completely factual and asks the Council to move forward with this plan.

Jim Heston, 670 Vermont Street, started his comments by saying everyone has the best intentions and feels that wholeheartedly as he has children in the school system currently. He feels that his neighborhood would be the most effected by the Edison School Field Project. He is not in opposition for improvements made to the Edison School Field facility, but he is hoping for compromise. He made comments in reference to the CME report and wished it detailed more qualitative aspects. He is not in favor of the possibility of lights shining in his house late at night. He is hoping for more compromise to be had but would like to see more details prior to a vote. He is disappointed the Council is getting closer to vote without more compromise and would like to make more of a commitment to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jean Lehmborg, 528 Grove Street, quoted previous comments made by Mayor Brindle regarding recyclable material in turf fields. She asked questions about where the recyclable materials in artificial turf would go and how it would be done. She did not see the answers to her questions in the CME report or by the Mayor so she conducted her own research. She gathered information on recyclable turf fields and feels it is a myth. She discusses chemicals and toxins in artificial turf and the effect it can have on children. She would like to see natural grass fields rather than artificial turf. Mrs. Lehmborg continues to discuss health issues related to artificial turf. She discussed the benefits of natural grass fields.

Gregg Lehmborg, 528 Grove Street, stated it's been 16 months since the Edison Field Project was first proposed to the Town Council. He feels much has changed since then, but many elements of the project have not. The project still plans to install 50% more artificial turf than needed for two multipurpose fields, costing taxpayers \$1.6 million. He states modern natural grass fields are still not being seriously considered as an alternative to artificial turf. Drainage, regenerative maintenance, aeration, and the right grass variety will improve our grass fields immensely. He also states there are inconsistencies with the Parks Master Plan regarding field capacity and safety aspects, scope, and space available in Tamaques Park. Additionally, he does not agree with a parking and capacity study that was conducted. He feels the Town Council and Board of Education owe students a better solution.

Anthony Scaglione, 543 Washington Street feels that the lights are a burden to homeowners in those specific areas. He stated the grass in Westfield has not been taken care of and that is what may be causing the increase of injuries. He stated that if there were engineered real grass fields, with the proper management, they would know how to get the grass completed without the use of toxic chemicals. He believes that the students do not care which field they are on, they simply want to play. He is concerned that the one neighborhood that is already overburdened will only get worse.

Gregory Kasko, 434 Everson Place, discussed the proposed parking deck in 2004 which the Town would spend approximately \$10 million for a 490-parking space garage and the money was going to come from a general obligation bond. He explained since the Town was going to use a general obligation bond, they could not guarantee payment through revenue, and they must guarantee payment by taxes. If there was a shortfall on the revenue, the Town would have to use taxing power to pay the debt. The proposed bond was for a period of 25 years with a 5.5% annual interest rate which the town would still be paying today. In the following week after the non-binding referendum, it was defeated 77% to 23%. In 2004, the referendum was floated because taxpayers were upset because the plans had changed significantly. He mentioned that the referendum being sought after today, has no mechanisms for it to be used with this project. He said that the Council should not support a public referendum. He feels that this development would put foot-traffic back into the town to put people in stores and apartments without having to travel to neighboring towns.

Ron Feldman, 972 Woodmere Drive, expressed that he hopes that those concerned for the safety of all the students that play on the turf are concerned for them when they visit neighboring towns. He mentioned that those concerned for the safety of turf should also be advocating for towns outside of Westfield where students play on turf and not only when it is convenient for them. He stated that the comments made about carcinogens and toxic chemicals are invalid points.

Jim Scheiner, 609 Roosevelt Street, specified that he has never had any reservation about students and even his children, playing on the turf fields in Westfield. He feels that the environmental concerns seem to arise only about Edison but not about the other fields, and that seems inconsistent. He doesn't believe that the turf fields are a permanent solution, but he also doesn't think that we have the proper resources to maintain real grass fields. He stated that although there is no perfect solution, he believes that turf is the best solution for now.

Rob Lombard, 267 Seneca Place thanked the Mayor, Council, Town Administrator, and Department of Public Works for the help provided to the Friends of Brightwood by removing invasive plants. He specifically thanked Town Administrator, Jim Gildea for a new aerator system for the pond and the Council's support for the many activities held in the park.

Jane Tsai, 2 Normandy Drive, stated she has worked many years as a chemical engineer. She discussed an article she found online about the chemicals, toxins, and health concerns related to rubber which is found in artificial turf. Mrs. Tsai expressed her love for the Town of Westfield and just wants the best for the younger generation. She asked the Council to lead in a green way.

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

Mayor Brindle thanked the many people who spoke and shared their comments, especially the many students in attendance tonight as she mentioned this is a great demonstration of the democratic process. Mayor Brindle thanked the Westfield Recreation Commission and the Town Council who have worked on the Edison School Fields Project. As mentioned in the opening remarks, this has had much discussion and has not been taken lightly. Mayor Brindle stated the fact that it has taken 16 months is to make sure it is done correctly. Mayor Brindle agreed with a speaker in that there is no optimal solution for Westfield since there is not a lot of areas with open space. Mayor Brindle thanked all of the students once again and Westfield High School Athletic Director Sandy Mamary, and all of the neighbors for their comments. She stated everyone is coming from good intentions and there may be disagreements on the outcome, but everyone does have good intentions as it is all one community trying to do what is best for the greater good. Everyone wants what is best for the future and the children which binds everyone together as the Mayor stated Westfield is a kid and family driven community. Mayor Brindle

also thanked comments made by Sam who is interested in forming a student advisory group and would be thrilled to have a group where students voices are being represented on projects in the Town.

Mayor Brindle addressed comments that were made by Brian Crawford. Mayor Brindle stated she did read his letter to the editor and heard the comments made earlier tonight and found them very offensive. Mayor Brindle explained one of the first meetings she had when she took office was with the Board of Education to discuss opportunities for collaboration and identify areas for shared services to deliver what is best for the community and taxpayers. Mayor Brindle feels that Mr. Crawford's comments implied that the Council is bullying the Board of Education is offensive not only to the Council but to the Board of Education as well. She also mentioned comments made that there was an ethical conflict is disrespectful for the level of work that has been put forth. There is precedent all over the State regarding partnerships with schools. Mayor Brindle explained this project would not only help the schools but the community as well.

Mayor Brindle answered a question that was posed in relation to the process of the project. She explained the Town Council has to take a vote on agreeing to sign a shared service agreement with the Board of Education. The Board of Education also will take a separate vote on the same shared service agreement. The Mayor is not sure of the Board of Education's timing in making said vote. She discussed the process and thinks the Council has enough data to make their decision after further discussions. Mayor Brindle thanked everyone once again for expressing their opinions and hopes everyone feels their voices are heard.

Mayor Brindle discussed comments in relation to the HBC | Streetworks One Westfield Place proposal. She explained there is a comprehensive 25-page FAQ document that was placed on the Town's website today which will help answer many questions that have been asked. The Mayor expressed it is important to get questions answered and seek accurate sources of information before drawing appropriate conclusions. Mayor Brindle state as public officials there is an obligation to ensure the public is armed with the facts so that residents can be better informed to provide credible feedback and input. This project is in the early stages of the public input process.

Mayor Brindle addressed comments that have been made online, posed during public comment and in a letter that Councilman LoGrippo raised questions which she feels had many inaccuracies. Mayor Brindle asked for a show of hands of how many people have visited the preview center already. She wanted to note that only a handful of people have which can lead to many inaccuracies since many people have not yet seen the center.

Mayor Brindle asked Councilman LoGrippo to explain PILOT programs and what he communicated on how PILOTs would impact schools and why he sees it as problematic.

Councilman LoGrippo stated PILOTs cause havoc on the school system because the money is put forth before the school board. He stated in the long term the schools loose out.

Mayor Brindle asked Councilman LoGrippo to elaborate on his comment that the school systems lose out on money long term.

Councilman LoGrippo commented he has not seen the financials, but the Town would receive \$200 million from the PILOT program. He asked if that was a lease or purchase.

Discussion was held.

Mayor Brindle wanted Councilman to explain the basis of his letter so she can have a better understanding of his comments and the concerns he has raised.

Councilman LoGrippo remarked 95% of the revenue goes to the Town and not the school board.

Mayor Brindle responded not necessarily.

Councilman LoGrippo affirmed monies from the last PILOT agreement did not go to the school board.

Mayor Brindle responded that was not correct and wanted to explain to avoid spreading misinformation. She thinks many people draw conclusions without asking questions and make statement about PILOTs which aren't necessarily true. She also asked Councilman to explain his comment about taking properties off the tax rolls.

Councilman LoGrippo explained that the Lord & Taylor property is currently paying around \$5 million dollars to the Town in taxes. He said now the Council is giving HBC | Streetworks a PILOT agreement for the Lord & Taylor property in addition to the municipal lots on North & South Avenue in the proposal and they would not be on the tax roll for 30 years.

Mayor Brindle disagreed with Councilman LoGrippo. She explained that is not how PILOTs work as they are only on the value of improvements. The land value always stays on the tax rolls and there has always been money paid on conventional taxes. These do not go to zero and still are on the value of the land. Mayor Brindle pointed out that the properties on North & South Avenue are not currently on the tax roll so it cannot be said the Town is giving away tax monies.

Discussion was held.

Mayor Brindle specified how the PILOT programs work. She mentioned school district always gets paid first. The school sends a bill to the Town and the Town pays the school. She stated the notion that a PILOT would shortchange the school is false and will always get paid. Mayor Brindle noted that the school district is not worried about the impact on schools. She further noted the first group she met with on September 21st after HBC | Streetworks presentation was the school district, Dr. Raymond Gonzalez, Dana Sullivan, and Board of Education President Brendan Galligan, and they are not worried about a PILOT program.

Secondly, the Mayor wanted to reiterate the pilot is only on the value of the improvements; the land value is still taxed conventionally; parking lot land value will then be added to the tax roll which is not currently on the tax roll. It is anticipated that much of the Lord & Taylor tax loss will be made up by new land value tax on the purposed North and South Avenue parking lots. Mayor Brindle said any differential will be a decimal point in the school districts \$106 million dollar budget and will be more than made up by the 20% pilot reserve that the Town is earmarking for tax relief or unexpected contingencies.

Councilman LoGrippo asked how the taxpayer is not at risk if the developer does not make their forecasted revenues?

Mayor Brindle explained there are minimum guarantees and minimum payments the developer must pay over the 30 years, regardless of the revenues the project brings in. The PILOT agreement will have many contingencies incorporated to ensure taxpayers are not put unnecessary at risk.

Councilman LoGrippo asked why this was not done on previous PILOTs.

Mayor Brindle explained every PILOT is different and every situation is different.

Discussion was held.

Councilman LoGrippo stated if this is such a great project why the Town is not going out to bid for it.

Mayor Brindle also discussed the impact on school enrollments for the proposed project and expressed that majority of the residences being proposed are for the 55+ community. Only 69 units are for the general market and if current trends hold in Westfield will bring 10-12 school age children. School enrollment has decreased by 400 kids since 2015. Mayor Brindle mentioned population in Town in 1970 was almost 2,000 more people.

Councilman LoGrippo wanted to remind the Mayor Columbus School was knocked down, there was an elementary school on Elm Street, and Lincoln was an elementary school.

Mayor Brindle wanted to point out from a population perspective the Town is lower than what it used to be.

Councilman LoGrippo wanted the Mayor to comment that there are less schools now than before.

Mayor Brindle agreed there are less schools and feels the Board of Education should continue to be included in PILOT discussions. Mayor Brindle expressed her desire to work together with the school districts to identify district priorities that the Town could help advance with PILOT proceeds.

Mayor Brindle asked Councilman LoGrippo if he could explain what he meant when saying the Town should have participated in a competitive, open bid process, and how that would benefit taxpayers.

Councilman LoGrippo said if the Town is going to get rid of its largest asset, and no one is saying if that makes sense or not, why would it not go to an open bid. Councilman LoGrippo said if the Town is expected to receive \$200 million in funds from the PILOT program why doesn't the Town go out to bid to see if another company other than HBC | Streetworks is willing to pay more for the municipal lots.

Mayor Brindle asked Councilman LoGrippo if he was conflating the \$200 million dollars from the PILOT agreement from the property.

Councilman LoGrippo explained the property value and asked why the Town would go out to bid to see who would give the highest amount for the Town owned lots. Councilman LoGrippo further stated there is also the Town owned Waterson Lot in which there have already been proposals for. Councilman LoGrippo asked the Mayor if she has seen proposals for the Waterson Lot.

Mayor Brindle stated proposals are sent from developers all the time and there is no intention to build on that. Mayor Brindle spoke about New Jersey Municipal Land Law regarding bids. Mayor Brindle read the section of the law which states the municipality may "lease or convey property or improvements to any other party pursuant to this section, without public bidding and at such prices and upon such terms as it deems reasonable, provided that the lease or conveyance is made in conjunction with a redevelopment plan." This is without a bidding process. Mayor Brindle remarked the Town is not "giving away" Town property to HBC | Streetworks. The Town will only consider selling property to HBC | Streetworks, which would include only a portion of two municipal lots that are part of their proposed project, if it can be sold at a market price that has been confirmed to be fair and reasonable by an independent appraiser. The Town will retain ownership of a significant portion of the parking lots designated, and those parcels will benefit from substantial public improvements paid for by HBC | Streetworks.

Mayor Brindle discussed the nature of a redevelopment project and explained it is to create a public/private partnership between government and a private developer, one in which the development that occurs not only advances the community's interests, but also creates a cohesive whole rather than merely piecemeal development. Mayor Brindle explained this is an opportunity to work with the largest downtown property owner to create something that is more holistic. There is no other developer that has seven acres of land in downtown Westfield.

Councilman LoGrippo feels other developers should have opportunities to develop the North & South Avenue lots.

Mayor Brindle also noted very importantly, negotiating with a single redeveloper allows the Town to insist that the redevelopment project puts forth consistently implemented public improvements and amenities for the entire community that would otherwise simply not happen with smaller, piecemeal development or if the Town property were offered through a typical public bidding process.

Mayor Brindle had some additional points that were clarified in the FAQs. The Town has parking consultants and have concluded there will be one to one parking ratios for commuter parking and not less parking from what was presented previously by HBC | Streetworks.

Councilman LoGrippo asked if HBC | Streetworks made a mistake when presenting.

Mayor Brindle explained HBC | Streetworks has their own parking consultant, and the Town has a parking consultant and the Town was committed to making sure there was adequate number of

spaces to have one-to-one commuter parking availability. Mayor Brindle also discussed many comments from people about an increase in retail space and wanted to remind everyone that Lord & Taylor was 143k sq. ft. of retail space. With the closing of Lord & Taylor there is 143k sq ft. less of retail space today and this project is proposing 27k sq. ft. of retail space which is 115k less than what used to be. Mayor Brindle reiterated there is no potential development on other municipal lots and no additional apartments are planned on the lots.

Councilman LoGrippo mentioned he spoke with representatives from HBC | Streetworks and stated if the commercial buildings do not get rented HBC | Streetworks would have to go to the Town Council to convert them into apartments.

Mayor Brindle explained there is no plan and no intention, and the control remains with the Town Council and would only ever change if the Council agreed.

Discussion was held.

Councilman LoGrippo asked the Fire Chief & Police Chief if a study has been done that would include 3-5,000 more people daily between workers, patrons, and residents how it would affect first responders and the amount of additional personnel needed.

Mayor Brindle asked how Councilman LoGrippo calculated 3-5,000 people. Discussion was held as to Councilman LoGrippo's calculations. Mayor Brindle feels that number is very high and is drawing conclusions on questions that have not yet been determined.

The Town Administrator stated there has been no study on this topic as it is premature. The Town is flexible in this circumstance and every year when the budget is being prepared there is the ability to add, reduce and change staff which is something that is always reviewed despite this project. Staffing is always reviewed in all departments and if adjustments are needed it can be done.

Councilman LoGrippo thinks it is a conversation that should be thought about and stated one additional employee over a ten-year time could result to over a million dollars from taxpayers.

The Town Administrator reiterated these conversations have always been held in relation to staffing. The Finance Policy Committee is always discussing staffing issues despite projects and this project is years away.

Councilwoman Habgood wanted to mention that staffing is budgeted for every year and if this project was to go through, stabilization would not take place for many years and there is plenty of time to plan.

Mayor Brindle wanted to follow-up on Mr. Kasko's comments regarding referendums. Mayor Brindle stated general obligation bonds would not be used for this as it would be redevelopment bonds which means anything the Town puts forward it is paid out of the PILOT therefore it is not something that would go to referendum. Furthermore, Mayor Brindle stated that not only is it something that would not go on referendum it is illegal under State law and the Town Charter, binding, or non-binding for redevelopment. The non-binding referendum 18 years ago, and the process that led to it, is certainly nothing to emulate, which is why the Council has gone to great lengths to apply lessons learned to the project the Council are contemplating today.

The Mayor feels confident in the three year public process that brought forth the initial proposal from HBC | Streetworks Development, and in the public engagement process for One Westfield Place that has just begun. The preview center, with its full-scale model of the downtown is unprecedented for a municipal development project of any size and intended to solicit engagement and input from the public.

Mayor Brindle further stated the proposal has been shaped by a publicly driven updated Master Plan that saw greater than average participation, well above the statistical norm. The Town's redevelopment team of professionals are best in class and have ensured the proposal reflects best planning principles, and has been informed by market data, parking assessments, and traffic impact studies which have already been conducted. Mayor Brindle mentioned the sequencing of the project has been structured to ensure it first delivers sufficient revenues to service any new debt, thereby mitigating taxpayer risk.

Mayor Brindle voiced, for those that are calling for a referendum, the good news is there is one - Please visit the preview center and let your voice be heard. The Mayor is confident in the process, the professionals that got everyone to this point, and most importantly continued input from the residents. The Mayor stated as a result, for this and the aforementioned legal reasons, a referendum for One Westfield Place will not be considered.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

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

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$614,833.73 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 Councilman Contract, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 236

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. 237

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$29.40 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 September 2022.

Resolution No. 238

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Mary Mastropietro 1545 Rahway Ave Westfield, NJ 07090	Tennis/Rec T-05-600=071	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Program Canceled Paid Cash

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Kimberly Benou	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
John Colasanti	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
Chip Parks	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall Leticia De Borba	\$42.00 Credit Card
Gene McGovern	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
Georgeanne McMahon	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
Maryann Odermatt	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00

			Credit Card
Richard Stern	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
Thomas Whipple	Program Canceled	Tai Chi/Fall	\$42.00 Credit Card
Nadine Mandel	Withdrew	Pickleball/Youth	\$88.00 Credit Card
Kristy Bassolino	Withdrew	Pickleball/Youth	\$88.00 Credit Card

Resolution No. 239

WHEREAS, Ultimate Drain Cleaning and Service LLC. placed the required cash bond of \$1500.00 to cover the Road Opening Permit #21-186 for 642 Fairmount Avenue; and WHEREAS, Ultimate Drain Cleaning and Service LLC. is entitled to have this amount to be returned, and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to draw a warrant in the name of Ultimate Drain Cleaning and Service LLC. for \$1,500.00 and forward to 237 Prospect Plains Road, Monroe, N.J., 08831.

Resolution No. 240

WHEREAS, the following persons, homeowners residing in Westfield, NJ, have filed for a 100% disabled rating due to service connected injuries, making them eligible for a Property Tax Exemption Qualification for the tax year 2022, and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Town Council elect to exercise their discretion to exempt homeowners from payment of real estate taxes for the prorated year 2022 and refund said homeowners retroactively to the effective date of disability stated in the Veteran Administration letter;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer be and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the below mentioned, this being a refund for prorated 2022 taxes, based on the application as indicated below;

Block/Lot			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
704/8 Haniak, Bohdan & Joyce A	940 Cleveland Avenue	2022	\$374.69

Resolution No. 241

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 \$19,740.00 to the TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY for the third quarter Construction Official's State permit fees for 2022.

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. 242

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer") by resolution adopted a Deferred Compensation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") effective July 9, 1996 for the purpose of making available to eligible employees the accrual of tax benefits under section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield previously adopted a Deferred Compensation Plan and Service Agreement provided by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company Plan Id#: 340537-01 and Service Agreement # 23-GWL/NPC-SA--E010702; and

WHEREAS, Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company has assigned the provision of services to its wholly owned subsidiary, Empower Retirement, LLC, who will

continue to provide the same services under an updated Service Agreement. The previously adopted Deferred Compensation Plan remains in full effect and is not being changed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Administrator or his designee is authorized to execute a Service Agreement with Empower Retirement, LLC, 21-SA-EMPOWER-110121, and to submit all necessary documents to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within the State Department of Community Affairs for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Administrator is hereby designated as the Local Plan Administrator for the administration of the Plan.

Resolution No. 243

WHEREAS, a desire exists to develop a Resiliency and Sustainable Energy Plan (RSE-Plan) for the Westfield Memorial Library, and the Town applied for a Sustainable New Jersey Grant to fund a portion of this project; and

WHEREAS, Gabel Associates, 417 Denison Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904, has submitted a proposal dated March 8, 2022, indicating that Gabel Associates would provide the above-service at a total fee not to exceed \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Gabel Associates RSE-Plan would consider the preliminary and high-level feasibility of various technology components for potential implementation at the Westfield Memorial Library including energy efficiency, solar, CHP, battery storage, microgrid solutions, electric vehicle charging; and

WHEREAS, Certificate of the Town Treasurer, certifying the availability of adequate funds for this Contract, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30 1.10, which will not exceed \$15,000 has been furnished to the Town Clerk. Expenditure of funds pursuant to this Contract is to be charged under Purchase Order 22-03444 as follows:

\$5,000 to BPU

\$5,000 to Sustainable Initiative Trust Fund, account T-05-600-094

\$5,000 to Memorial Library, account 2-01-29-390-775

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Westfield be and hereby authorize the contract awarded for services described above to Gabel Associates, 417 Denison Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

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

Resolution No. 244

WHEREAS, a need exists for improvements to the Town Council Chambers and other meeting rooms within the Westfield Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held October 13, 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Westfield authorized an award of contract to Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie P.C. (FVHD), Architects and Planners, for various design and architectural services for the Town's Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, through the design and architectural services provided, FVHD has recommended that the Town of Westfield authorize a contract to Ackerson Drapery, Decorator Services Inc. 500 James Street #14, Lakewood, NJ 08701, for the furnishing and installation of window treatments needed for Town Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, the contract for these improvements was awarded through a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the Educational Services Commission of NJ (ESCNJ), and

WHEREAS, the Town Treasurer certified to the availability of adequate funds for payment of the above referenced alternate items, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30 1.10, which will be in the amount of \$11,960.88, under New Jersey State Approved Co-Op Contract ESCNJ #65MCECCPS-ESCNJ Bid#22/23-08 Furniture & Accessories, charged to Special Ordinance 2221, C-07-21-222-1F1, under Purchase Order No 22-03441.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Westfield be and hereby authorize the contract awarded for services described above to Ackerson Drapery, Decorator Services Inc. in an amount not expected to exceed \$11,960.88, under New Jersey State Approved Co-Op Contract ESCNJ #65MCESCCPS-ESCNJ Bid#22/23-08.

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

Public Safety, Transportation & Parking Committee

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

Resolution No. 245

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield has determined a need for an on-call traffic safety and engineering services consultant to assist the Town as necessary, and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2022, by Resolution 25-2022, Town Council awarded a professional services contract in an amount not to exceed \$17,000 to Bright View Engineering, 651 Old Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, for aforesaid services, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that additional services are required and therefore an amendment to the professional services agreement in the amount of \$8,000 is being requested, and

WHEREAS, a Certificate from the Chief Financial Officer, certifying the availability of adequate funds for this contract, prepared in accordance with NJAC 5:30-1.10, has been furnished to the Town Clerk. Expenditure of funds pursuant to this contract is to be charged to the Engineering Consultant Services Budget Account 2-01-135-114, under Purchase Order 22-00482, increasing the original contract award from \$17,000 to an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Westfield amends its contract to Brightview Engineering for the aforementioned service at a fee not to exceed \$25,000 an, an increase of \$8,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper Town Officials be authorized to effect whatever actions are necessary in the execution and discharge of this contract.

Code Review & Town Property Committee

The following resolution, introduced by Councilman Parmelee and seconded by Councilwoman Contract was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 246

RESOLVED that the following application for children's amusement devices be approved:

Party Perfect	Children's Holiday	DWC
312 Squankum Yellowbrook Road	December 18, 2022	133 Prospect St.
Farmingdale, NJ 07727	Foundation Park	Westfield, NJ 07090
	Westfield, NJ 07090	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilman LoGrippe and seconded by Councilman Katz at 10:33 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Lawshe, RMC
Town Clerk