

*Minutes of the Sine Die Meeting of January 1, 2023*

**CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Mayor Sarlo.

**SUNSHINE NOTICE:**

This meeting is being held in accordance with Public Law 1975 Chapter 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the “Sunshine Law”. The public meeting notice stating the date, time and place of this meeting was posted on the municipal bulletin board and the municipal website and was forwarded to The Record and the Star Ledger.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo – present
Council:	Catherine Cassidy – present
	Ezio Altamura – present
	Dominick Azzolini – present
	Edward Marino – present
	Joseph DiMarco – present
	Philip Romero – present
Borough Attorney:	Paul Barbire – present
Borough Engineer:	Brian Intindola – excused
Borough Clerk:	Gina Affuso – present
Borough Administrator:	Chris Eilert – present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** was led by Councilperson Azzolini

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 130-2022  
RESOLUTION HONORING COUNCILWOMAN CATHERINE CASSIDY  
FOR HER SERVICE ON THE WOOD-RIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Catherine Cassidy was sworn in as a Member of the Wood-Ridge Borough Council on January 1, 1999 and served eight consecutive 3-year terms for a total of 24 years before retiring on December 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilwoman Cassidy served as Council President in the years 2005, 2006, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022 for a total of six 1-year terms; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilwoman Cassidy served as Chairperson of the Council’s Police Committee, and Chairperson of the Council’s Law, Land Use, and Code Enforcement Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilwoman Cassidy also served as Council Liaison to the Board of Health, Board of Education, Library Board, Local Assistance Board, and the Historical Society; and

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**WHEREAS**, Councilwoman Cassidy achieved many notable milestones including being the first Councilwoman to serve as Police Commissioner and the first Councilwoman to preside over a Meeting of the Borough Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilwoman Cassidy's 24 years of service as a Member of the Wood-Ridge Borough Council marks the longest tenure of a Councilmember in the 129-year history of the Borough of Wood-Ridge as of the date of her retirement on December 31, 2022.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge do hereby commend Catherine Cassidy for her exemplary service to the Borough of Wood-Ridge and its residents, and do hereby extend to her its heartfelt thanks and gratitude and wish her success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Motion: Councilperson DiMarco, seconded by Altamura moved to the adoption of Resolution #130-2022

Roll Call: Cassidy abstain, Altamura yes, Azzolini yes, Marino yes, DiMarco yes, Romero yes

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**RESOLUTION NO.: 131-2022  
RESOLUTION HONORING COUNCILMAN JOSEPH DiMARCO  
FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE WOOD-RIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Joseph DiMarco was sworn in as a Member of the Wood-Ridge Borough Council on January 1, 2011 and served four consecutive 3-year terms for a total of 12 years before retiring on December 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilman DiMarco served as Chairperson of the Council's Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the Council's Law, Land Use, and Code Enforcement Committee, and Vice-Chairperson of the Council's Finance, Insurance, and Administration Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilman DiMarco also served as Council Liaison to the Board of Health, the Planning Board, the Bergen County Community Development Committee, and the Local Business Community; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilman DiMarco planned and organized many community events including the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, the annual Christmas Toy Drive, and numerous ribbon cuttings and grand opening ceremonies for local businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilman DiMarco volunteered in the Borough's youth recreation programs, served as a Coach in Soccer, Softball, Little League, and Babe Ruth, and served as an Officer of the Soccer program.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge do hereby commend Joseph DiMarco for his exemplary service to the Borough of Wood-Ridge and its residents, and do hereby extend to him its heartfelt thanks and gratitude and wish him success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Motion: Councilperson Cassidy, seconded by Azzolini moved to the adoption of Resolution #131-2022

Roll Call: Cassidy yes, Altamura yes, Azzolini yes, Marino yes, DiMarco abstain, Romero yes

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### **REMARKS & PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Councilwoman Cassidy:**

Happy New Year. Hopefully 23 is far superior to the last three plus. . .

First, congratulations to Michele and Mike. Best wishes always. Even though I had about 9 months to write something I figured I wouldn't be able to get through it so I didn't write anything until last night.

Thinking about all of this, my first meeting went to midnight and I thought, oh my god, what did I get involved with - I go to bed at 9. Thankfully, it was agreed to always end by 11. The only long meeting after that was when we signed the developer's agreement for Wesmont and that went to about 3 am.

I have served in four different decades (much like Nolan Ryan pitching — my Mets reference for the Mayor) starting when I was 28. I worked with 5 police chiefs, 13 fire chiefs, 3 administrators, 2 clerks, and I think, 5 tax collectors. I am the last councilperson who served with a different mayor and maybe it was time to turn the page. I am so proud of the accomplishments of the last 24 years and can't wait to see what the future holds for Wood-Ridge. It has been a profound honor to serve and I can't thank the residents enough for keeping me in this position for as long as they have. I would like to thank my Borough family all the employees and staff and the Mayor, council and their families for their friendship and camaraderie these many years. But most importantly I want to thank my family for all their support during 8 campaign seasons and everything else for the last 24 years while I have been up here.

#### **Councilman DiMarco:**

Happy New Year everyone. Congratulations to Mike and Michelle. You are good people with big hearts and will do a great job for Wood-Ridge. Over 12 years ago when I was approached to be a councilperson, I had no interest in it whatsoever. However, I can honestly say that it has probably been the second-best decision of my life. Thank you, Cathy, for always pushing me to get out there and walk during campaigning and I appreciate you always being there for me.

Mayor Sarlo asked Cathy and Joe to the dais to present them with their plaques and key to the city.

Former Bergen County Commissioner, Julie O'Brien, presented Cathy with flowers and spoke about what a pleasure it has been to work with her on behalf of the Women Empowerment Democratic Organization (WEDO).

Catherine presented Joe with a photo of the two of them to commemorate their time serving together.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS:**

Mayor Sarlo declared the Hearing of Citizens to be open. With no citizens wishing to be heard, the hearing of citizens was closed.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Sarlo called for a Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Councilperson Azzolini, seconded by Councilperson Cassidy moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote of the members of the Council present, the Sine Die Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge held on January 1, 2023 was duly adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Affuso, RMC  
Borough Clerk