

January 26, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President Harry R. Riskie at 7:30 p.m.. The meeting was held in Council Chambers located at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N.J.. The Administrator, Thomas B. Bowe, stated that it was a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Woodbury City Council and due notice had been given to both the press and the public by reason of a resolution for Regular Meetings adopted January 5, 2004.

President Riskie requested a Moment of Silence with special mention of the passing of the former past President of Friendship Fire Company, Gary Anderson.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Curtis, Louis, Graziani, Schreyer, Grimming, President Riskie, Mayor Clark

**Absent:** Brown, Sloane, Grebb

### **MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the minutes of January 12, 2004 were approved as submitted.

### **MAYOR CLARK ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Clark read a Letter of Recommendation from Police Chief Reed Merinuk listing background information and qualifications for the hiring of two Special Law Enforcement Officers: Kelli Strouse and Edward "Ryan" McColligan.

Mayor Clark administered the Oath of Office to both officers. Special Officer Strouse and McColligan introduced their family and friends who were present.

### **PUBLIC**

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Agenda Items only.

Dr. Rogers, 130 Rugby Place, inquired about Resolution #04-49 and what long term effect that agreement would have on the City.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, also shared the same views as Dr. Rogers with regards the resolution and inquired exactly what the benefit would be to Woodbury.

Mr. Bowe, Clerk/Administrator, stated that the monies received from that agreement with Harrison Township would go directly for the perpetuation of the work of our current NPP Program and would be

applied to existing home ownership rehab just as we are doing now. The only difference would be that the work would be city wide not just within designated areas.

Ms. Horn stated that there were income requirements and the property owner would be restricted as to the uses for the money.

Councilman Louis explained that when the program was first presented to Council he did not want to get into a situation whereby the City was taking on more low income housing; however, this would not be the case as Woodbury already has its fair amount of low/moderate income homes. The numbers would not increase, in fact, the money received would enhance those existing properties by making improvements.

As no one else desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION #04-47 - RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TAX EXEMPTION AND CANCEL TAXES FOR A DISABLED VETERAN**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

#### **RESOLUTION #04-48 - REVIEW OF AUDIT AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

#### **RESOLUTION #04-49 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT (RCA) BETWEEN HARRISON TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF WOODBURY**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Curtis stated he objected to the agreement just as he was against the receiving of funds for the redevelopment area several years ago.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

Councilman Curtis made a motion to table the resolution until Council could have time to review the agreement in full; motion seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer.

Councilman Graziani objected to the tabling of said resolution and requested the concerns be discussed so action could be taken tonight so that the resolution could move forward.

Councilman Curtis withdrew the motion to table.

Councilman Graziani gave his reasons for entering into the agreement and the benefits he sees for Woodbury.

Mr. Aimino stated the monies received would have to be used for improvements on twenty-two units that have been designated and for nothing else.

Virginia Horn took the floor to explain the steps a homeowner would have to follow in order to qualify to receive a loan for the improvement.

Much conversation went back and forth.

Not having enough information in front of him, Councilman Curtis again requested that the resolution #04-49 be tabled; Councilwoman Schreyer seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken to table the resolution.

Ayes	2	Curtis, Schreyer
Nays	4	Graziani, Louis, Grimmig, Riskie
Absent	3	Brown, Sloane, Grebb

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a roll call vote.

Ayes	4	Graziani, Louis, Grimmig, Riskie
Nays	2	Curtis, Schreyer
Absent	3	Brown, Sloane, Grebb

## **VOUCHERS**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Curtis, the vouchers as listed and certified were authorized paid.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **RESOLUTION #04-50 - RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL AND MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE G.G. GREEN BLOCK BUILDING**

Councilman Graziani presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Councilwoman Schreyer inquired if Mr. Law heard anything from the State regarding the energy issues. Mr. Law advised that he did not and intends to make another call tomorrow.

## **GREEN ACRES**

Councilman Curtis thanked Councilman Graziani for the information he forwarded to him and likewise Mr. Law for supplying him with the figures he needed.

### **RAFFLE APPLICATION**

Councilman Louis presented a raffle application from St. Patrick's PTA. On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani the raffle was approved as submitted; Councilman Curtis abstained from the vote.

### **PRESENTATION BY JAYCEES**

Alison Siciliano, President of the Woodbury Jaycees, approached Council to discuss liability issues and why the Jaycees would no longer be able to host and sponsor the fireworks display held each year by the Woodbury Jaycees. Alison then explained why the Jaycees were withdrawing their support of this event due to a lawsuit filed as a result of last year's show.

Councilman Graziani suggested the City's Community Development Committee look into the situation and work with the Jaycees so that we could continue this 50 year-old tradition.

Mr. Bowe alerted everyone of the problem at the HS Stadium and the probability that the fireworks could not be held there this year no matter who the sponsoring agency was.

### **MAYOR CLARK**

Mayor Clark discussed the following:

1. The Mayor thanked everyone who ventured out this evening, especially because of the bad weather; and thanked the Public Works Department for helping keep the streets in such good condition for traveling;
2. Mayor Clark asked to keep the family of Gary Anderson, a volunteer firefighter very well known in Woodbury, in their prayers;
3. Mayor Clark advised that she attended a meeting in Camden last week with Senator Wayne Bryant along with other officials to discuss their support for finding funding for the G. G. Green Project;
4. The Mayor welcomed another new business in town called "Paperback Heaven", a book exchange store that also serves coffee and which also provides an area for leisure reading;
5. Mayor Clark spoke of the proposed Wal Mart coming to Deptford and some of the problems that may have to be faced by neighboring towns; and
6. The Mayor announced that tonight was the first night for City Hall evening office hours; hopefully after the news circulates and the weather conditions improve, more residents and non-residents will be able to take advantage of our evening hours.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Engineer's Report was received as filed.

**PUBLIC**

Dave Jenkins, Glover Street, inquired what was the status of the Barber Avenue Project.

Mr. Bove responded that demolition will probably occur in the spring and 2 or 3 single-family homes will be built.

Gene McCaffrey, 455 Hunter Street, first commended the Public Works Department for their great job each and every time the City is hit with a snowfall.

Mr. McCaffrey also was interested in addressing the most recent School Board Meeting whereby the bond issue referendum was discussed. Mr. McCaffrey stated that eventually this issue will come before Council and he, as a concerned taxpayer, was concerned that Woodbury had the highest tax rate in the County and Woodbury can no longer afford additional increases.

Mr. McCaffrey then made reference to the Regionalization Summary whereby recommendations were made to possibly close down Walnut Street School; yet, the Woodbury School Board is requesting \$100,000 to renovate the school. Isn't anybody reading these reports?

President Riskie advised Mr. McCaffrey that budget cuts were made by Council to the last two school budgets: one for \$110,000 and the other for \$250,000. President Riskie further stated that more discussion was necessary regarding the Regionalization Plan especially regarding cost factors involved.

Mr. McCaffrey went back to the report and stated that the report was a start for Council to seriously look at the impact of the current 20 million dollar bond issue now being faced by the residents of this City.

More dialogue continued with Mr. McCaffrey making reference for the need for all residents to come together to bring pressure on local officials to face this problem and to come up with viable solutions to hold down local costs for our taxpayers. Mr. McCaffrey also questioned the City's intentions regarding the RCA agreement and affordable housing that is being planned for Hopkins Street.

Councilman Graziani advised Mr. McCaffrey that Council had to consider the long-range concerns for the City in all issues that come before Council.

Mr. McCaffrey also inquired if Council could look into putting radar devices along the Hunter Street corridor as there are many young children who live on that street and the reduced speed limits to 25 mph is not enough.

Kelli Law, 449 Spruce Lane, came forward to also address the recent School Board Meeting where the referendum was discussed; she left that meeting very confused. She further stated that the facts were not presented accurately, even the State Board of Education's website gave wrong figures. How could a resident walk away from one of these meetings with a positive attitude?

As no one else desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

Councilman Curtis advised that after listening to some of the questions addressed to the School Board Members at their recent meeting along with the answers given, he is not surprised that residents have a credibility issue with board members. Councilman Curtis stated that figures presented were inaccurate and that board members kept changing facts & figures.

Councilman Graziani inquired if there could be formed a Council committee who could work with the Board of Education on various topics. Councilman Curtis responded that there had been an attempt in the past to have such a situation, and that it had failed. Councilman Graziaini stated that maybe the attempt should be made again to establish a relationship between School Board and Council.

Councilwoman Schreyer stated that one of the suggestions presented at the recent meeting was that all items intended for the referendum be listed individually.

President Riskie advised that we should reach out again to the School Board for another attempt at collaboration.

Councilwoman Schreyer suggested that if the school budget was voted down, their budget be referred to the State Board of Education immediately.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Curtis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m..

---

THOMAS B. BOWE  
Clerk/Administrator

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Assessor: Roy Duffield  
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law  
Deity Engineer: Dwight Weir, Clancy Associates, Inc.  
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler  
Emergency Mgmt Officer: Sergeant Cope  
Librarian: Jean Wipf  
NPP Director: Virginia Horn  
Police Chief: Reed Merinuk  
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esq.