

January 26, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President Pro Tempore William Fleming at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers located at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, NJ. The Clerk/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, 2009.

President Pro Tempore Fleming opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Pottillo, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Trout, Croce, and Mayor Curtis

Absent: Villari, President Sloane

**MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of January 12, 2009 were approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATION BY MAYOR**

Mayor Curtis invited Mrs. Kathleen O'Connor to join him in front of Council so he could present a plaque to her. The Mayor then proceeded to read the plaque which commemorated former Councilwoman O'Connor's 29 years of service to the City as a Councilperson and also as serving on the Planning Board. Mrs. O'Connor graciously accepted and thanked Mayor and Council stating she thoroughly enjoyed her service to the City and wished everyone the same.

**MAYOR ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Curtis then invited Patrolman Eric Lokaj to come forward so the Mayor could Administer the Oath of Office to him as Patrolman 4<sup>th</sup> Class. First, the Mayor read a Letter of Recommendation from Chief Merinuk listing Cadet Lokaj's achievements, followed by the introduction of a resolution memorializing the appointment.

**RESOLUTION #09-52 – RESOLUTION HIRING PATROLMAN FOR THE CITY OF WOODBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mayor Curtis then Administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Lokaj.

Patrolman Lokaj introduced his family who were present and thanked everyone who came out to witness his appointment.

President Pro Tempore Fleming then invited Patrolman Lokaj to meet all the Council Members.

President Pro Tempore Fleming requested a five-minute recess before continuing.

**PUBLIC**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Agenda Items Only.

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

**PRESENTATION REGARDING COMMUNITY GARDEN**

President Pro Tempore Fleming introduced Amelie-Harris McGeehan and asked her to come forward to brief Council regarding the Community Garden.

Ms. McGeehan stated she wanted to explain to Council what the Woodbury Community Garden was all about. She then proceeded to show pictures of the garden and invited questions from Council Members.

Councilman Louis inquired about the plantings that were acquired from the property which formerly was a golf center at Parkville Road and Kings Highway. Ms. McGeehan stated that she had been advised that the property will be used as the future site of a Rite-Aid and the owner of the property had given her permission to take whatever plantings she wanted before they start construction.

Councilwoman Brown stated that she had the opportunity to visit the garden and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hoped that our younger people would also take an interest.

In conclusion, Amelie welcomed everyone out to support the program and to enjoy all of the effort that has gone into making the program such a success.

Tom Dukelow came forward to thank Amelie for all her hard work.

### **PRESENTATION TO CITY FROM WENA**

President Pro Tempore Fleming welcomed Earl Fleming to come forward. Mr. Fleming, President of the West End Neighborhood Association, presented a plaque to the City as well as to Virginia Horn from the Neighborhood Preservation Program, and Chief Merinuk for the Fire Department.

Mayor Curtis stated that along with being the President of WENA, Earl is also involved with the County Prosecutor's Office and participates in intervention with juveniles.

### **ORDINANCES**

#### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

#### **ORDINANCE #2096-09 – ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2082-08 OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Trout, the ordinance was passed on first reading, to be advertised according to law, come up for second reading, public hearing and final passage at the next regular meeting of Council on February 9, 2009.

#### **RESOLUTION #09-49 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PERMIT FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH PYRO ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#### **RESOLUTION #09-50 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WAIVER OF PERMIT FEE TO THE CITY OF WOODBURY**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #09-51 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY ENDORSING TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT NORTH BROAD STREET AND HUNTER STREET**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #09-53 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DONATION OF RETIRED TRASH TRUCK #8702 TO GLOUCESTER COUNTY COLLEGE/GLOUCESTER COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY**

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**VOUCHERS**

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the vouchers as presented were authorized paid.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Pottillo stated he had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE #2097-09 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE TO WOODBURY MAIN STREET TO ASSIST WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF WOODBURY**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the ordinance was passed on first reading, to be advertised according to law, come up for second reading, public hearing and final passage at the next regular meeting of Council on February 9, 2009.

### **PERSONNEL**

Councilwoman Tierney advised that other than the resolution hiring the new patrolman which was done earlier in the meeting, she had nothing else to report.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Councilman Croce stated he had nothing to report.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Councilwoman Brown stated that she was pleased to see the WENA Organization take the time to recognize some of the City Officials with whom they have worked.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming stated that he also thought it was very nice to have people who take such a serious interest in the welfare of their neighborhood such as the people who are involved with WENA.

### **GREEN ACRES**

Councilman Trout had nothing to report.

### **PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

President Pro Tempore Fleming stated that he had sent a memo along with a report to a number of people regarding the Light Rail Project which is coming up again for conversation. President Pro Tempore Fleming is recommending that the City form some type of Committee which can represent the City when the Light Rail Topic comes up again for State review. Obviously the City's Committee would support the Woodbury-Glassboro Alternative.

### **MAYOR CURTIS**

Mayor Curtis advised that at everyone's place this evening there was a gift from Councilman Al Hoag, who is from Belton, Missouri and the brother-in-law of Dr. Epple. Mr. Hoag wanted to show his appreciation in some small way to the City for its efforts in attempting to save Dr. and Mrs. Epple.

The Mayor invited Chief Merinuk to explain exactly what Officer Pitzo will be doing in his new position as Landlord/Tenant Officer.

Chief Merinuk stated that first and foremost Officer Pitzo will be entering and maintaining a software data which will detail each time there is a turnover of occupants, who the owners are and how often an officer is dispatched to that property and for what reason. A report can then be generated to see where problem areas are and who the problem tenants are. Officer Pitzo will also be attending HUD Meetings and Municipal Court Appearances along with any other duties that will involve landlord/tenant situations.

Several questions from Council Members were directed to Chief Merinuk regarding results of other municipalities who also utilize a similar program in their communities.

Mayor Curtis stated he attended the Mayors' Day on January 14, 2009 in Trenton with the economy being the main focus of Governor Corzine's speech and how the economy might effect cuts in government spending. While there, the Mayor said he had the opportunity to speak with the Acting Commissioner of DEP and Commissioner Doria of DCA; both gentleman said they would continue to look out for Woodbury's interest.

In that same vain the Mayor reminded all Councilpersons to look at their budgets to see if there are any areas that can be scaled down because now is the time to do it.

The Mayor also announced that we will be receiving two grants: one for CDBG for \$36,000, and the other for \$30,000 involving the Helping Hands Program.

Mayor Curtis then read a letter from DOT regarding the City's Bikeway Grant Program. The city has been awarded a grant for \$500,000.00. The Mayor thanked the City Engineer for all his work on the application and also advised that as everyone knows the Bike Project was one near and dear to Councilwoman Schreyer's heart. The project would include connecting a trail from the Soccer Complex to all of the other recreational areas in the City.

Mr. Wilkinson, City Engineer, stated that he would need authorization to apply for the appropriate permits for the Bike Project as well as to proceed with the design to submit to DEP. On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the request to have the City Engineer proceed with all the necessary permit applications and design work was approved by Council.

Mayor Curtis thanked Jean Wipf, Director of the Woodbury Library, for preparing the Library Report that was distributed this evening; he also recognized Ms. Wipf for being in attendance for every Council and Department Head Meeting.

The Mayor advised that he has requested the Chief of Police to do an in-town study of our traffic situation, especially in the Cooper and Euclid Street area where there has been an increase in law offices. Another area which has increased in traffic is in the Third Ward near Queen and Logan Streets, as well as Tatum Street in the First Ward.

Mayor Curtis welcomed the three new members to the Woodbury Fire Department who came on as volunteers.

Lastly, referring back to Councilman Fleming's remarks on the Light-Rail subject, there are other Mayors from other towns, such as Glassboro and Pitman, who should come together to help make this project happen.

### **CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Bowe inquired if anyone else received a memo from President Sloane discussing "Live Where you Work". This program is involved in giving discounts on homeowners' mortgages.

Mayor Curtis and President Pro Tempore Fleming both were familiar with the memo, although no one else seemed to have received it, and stated they were looking into it and were waiting to hear back from a contact established by the Mayor.

### **PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE**

President Pro-Tempore Fleming also advised that Virginia Horn, along with the Engineer, Ted Wilkinson, Bob Law and Tom Bowe are searching for ways to use our 2009 CDBG Grant Funds.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming also advised that the final JIF Elected Officials Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2009 in Hammonton, New Jersey. For those who have not attended and wish to, please sign up as soon as possible. The City will receive a \$250.00 credit towards our City's insurance premium for every elected official attending.

### **PUBLIC**

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Non-Agenda Items only.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, approached Council to discuss if Council has given any consideration to the potential increase in traffic due to the soon-to-open Walmart just over the Deptford Township border on Cooper Street.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Trout, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Trout, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

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**THOMAS B. BOWE**  
Clerk/Administrator

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Assessor: Roy Duffield  
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law  
City Engineer: Ted Wilkinson, PE  
Emergency Mgmt Officer: Lieutenant Cope  
Librarian: Jean Wipf  
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn  
Police: Chief Merinuk  
Public Works: Tom Dukelow, Supervisor  
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.