

February 8, 2010

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 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 4, 2010.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation delivered by Minister Victor Browne.

ROLL CALL

Present: Villari, Riskie, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Trout, and Mayor Curtis

Absent: Pottillo, President Sloane

Mayor Curtis started the meeting by giving a special "Thank-You" to all of the Public Works employees who worked 16 hour shifts to accomplish the extraordinary job they did in clearing the streets after the two recent snow falls. All worked exceptionally hard and the Mayor encouraged all residents to restrain from shoveling their sidewalks and/or driveways back onto the streets. It is for everyone's safety and well being that everyone help each other during these times and work with each other.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Trout, the minutes of January 25, 2010 were approved as submitted.

Councilman Riskie asked that an amendment be added to reflect that a certain complaint handled by Councilman Louis was addressed on Sunday, June 24. The original wording in the minutes left out the date.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE FLEMING

President Pro-Tempore Fleming advised that Mr. Ted Wilkinson, City Engineer, asked to be excused from tonight's meeting due to an emergency situation he had with his property in Cape May. Mr. Wilkinson was scheduled to do two presentations; however, in his absence President Pro-Tempore Fleming will address both topics.

The first topic concerned the combining of all the small lots behind City Hall into one large lot while clearly delineating what the Kemble Church owns. This action must first be approved by the City's Planning/Zoning Board. The City engineer recommends that Council move on this matter.

Councilman Louis did inquire as to the benefits involved whereupon the Mayor responded that besides more clearly showing areas of ownership this process finally brings to a conclusion agreements made some time ago.

Mr. Roy Duffield, Tax Assessor, stated that it is just a more simplified way of showing the property lines.

The second item involved the City Engineer going out to bid for ADA ramps throughout the City. On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the requests were approved for both items.

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.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to inquire about the resolution on the agenda for a Feasibility Study. He asked why another study was necessary since the City already authorized a study for the Redevelopment Plan.

Mayor Curtis explained that this study was a separate study required in order for the City to participate in a Business Improvement Grant that is currently being considered.

Mr. Chiesa also inquired about the PSE&G bulb conversion project and why all bulbs could not be consistent throughout the City.

Mayor Curtis responded that the City's poles would accommodate the one bulb whereas DOT makes the decision for state highways and must comply with what accommodates their needs.

Brendan Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, inquired about the Community Forestry Plan pertained to on the agenda.

Mr. Dukelow, the City's Parks and Recreation Director, explained that the State offers a 5-year plan to communities which enhances the municipalities protection against any law suit involving trees within a particular community.

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

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #10-52 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT, PURSUANT TO THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, TO JGSC GROUP FOR AN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #10-53 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Riskie, the resolution was adopted by a voice motion.

RESOLUTION #10-54 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PSE&G TO CONVERT 640 BULBS TO INDUCTION BULBS

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Riskie, the resolution was adopted by a voice motion.

RESOLUTION #10-55 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the vouchers as presented and certified were authorized to be paid.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Louis had nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilwoman Tierney concurred with Mayor Curtis's remarks regarding the efficiency of our Public Works Department which worked so diligently to get our streets into operation after the two recent snow falls.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Villari had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Councilman Riskie invited Virginia Horn, the City's NPP Director, to brief Council on the recent meeting she attended regarding Clean Energy Programs.

Mrs. Horn stated that currently the state is offering a voluntary program to any municipality who would like to participate called "Sustainable Jersey". In addition, there is grant money available from the BPU Clean Energy NJ program in the amount of \$269 million to be distributed and used for various programs to educate our local residents in attempting to become more "energy efficient"; however, a resolution is needed endorsing the program and a "Green Team" has to be formed before entering into the program and qualifying for any such grant monies.

The Mayor directed that any information we have be made available on the City's web page and a resolution be prepared for the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

In another matter, Councilman Riskie referenced Mr. Dukelow's budget request where there appeared to be some increased figures. Mr. Dukelow stated that this was due to the planned installation of a fence at the midget football field.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming advised that when the existing fence was there people were using the area as a “dog run” because it was fully enclosed: this time possibly a three-sided fence would be considered.

Councilman Riskie then thanked Tom Dukelow and Virginia Horn for their reports given to Council this evening.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown introduced Virginia Horn and Donna Miller who wanted to brief Council on upcoming events being sponsored by the Neighborhood Preservation Program and the Greater Woodbury Arts Council.

Ms. Horn stated that they are planning a re-dedication of Wing-Dickerson Park is being planned for June 9th as well as an event called Juneteenth both scheduled for June 19th.

Ms. Donna Miller, 132 Laurel Street, treasurer of the Greater Woodbury Arts Council came forward to explain the Juneteenth event giving its historical background as the practical origin of slaves in the US recognizing their freedom. The event will held on June 19th from 11:00 to 4:00 pm and will have music, dancing and reenactments.

Also, a fundraiser will be held on April 10th at the Woodbury Mews where an author of a book explaining African American Art will speak. All are welcomed.

GREEN ACRES

Councilman Trout thanked Tom Dukelow for adjusting his budget so that the purchase of the fencing and the bleachers at the football field can finally be accomplished.

MAYOR CURTIS

Mayor Curtis invited all those with an interest in youth community centers to visit the Boys and Girls Club in Glassboro. Hopefully, we could reproduce something like it in Woodbury.

The Mayor was also thankful for Council’s approval of the Forestry Grant Resolution.

Mayor Curtis advised that for those who attended the Green Building Project Meeting held at Nicolosi’s Catering he is appreciative for their support.

Also, the Woodbury Police Department has been requested to look at three (3) vacant properties and encourages everyone to keep City officials aware of any other properties that need to be investigated.

The Mayor also requested authorization to support the Colonial Park Renovation Project by way of a letter which they have requested. On motion of Councilman Riskie, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, a letter was authorized to be sent to support the County regarding their Colonial Park Project.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe, Clerk/Administrator, requested authorization to use the services of Triad Associates to help get the Woodbury Boys/Girls Club up and running. The time spent will be minimal but there is a need for some professional guidance especially involving grant application. On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, Triad Associates was granted permission to be compensated for a maximum of four (4) hours to help start up the program.

Mr. Bowe stated that he along with the City Planner, Solicitor, CFO and Tax Assessor met to move forward with the Habitat for Humanity Project on E. Barber Avenue. This project has already been approved by the City.

The Clerk advised that the dedication of an area in Hendrickson Park in the memory of Mrs. Wolfson will be held sometime in May. He will keep everyone advised.

Finally, Mr. Bowe stated that New Jersey Transit will be visiting one day next week to further discuss the location of the proposed ticket machines discussed at the last meeting.

PUBLIC

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

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to suggest that the City may want to get the Ecology Club Program involved with some of the "green projects".

Mr. Chiesa then referred to the meeting involving the Green Block Building recently held at Nicolosi's. He was appreciative of the Mayor for his support and hoped that some county officials might be interested in helping the City with this project as well.

Also, Mr. Chiesa inquired about the status of the Country Club situation, as this involves a large tax ratable.

Mr. Bowe stated that there are some options being considered, but of the 51 acres that comprise the property many are considered Wetlands. Also, the City lien on the property has been bought. The property will be auctioned by the bankruptcy court.

Mayor Curtis expanded further on the Country Club adding that there are limitations on what can be built on the property because of zoning as well as the wetlands situation.

Bob DiLella, Clerk of the Freeholders Board, stated that at the last Freeholders Meeting it was decided that county staff members attend local municipality meetings to show that the County is open and interested in whatever issues are important to our local towns. He just wanted to introduce himself this evening and state he will be attending future meetings and will be available to answer questions.

Brendan Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, inquired about where the Boys/Girls Club might be located. Mayor Curtis responded that he was not at liberty to discuss or answer that question.

Also, Mr. Chiesa inquired if the City would consider a "Dog Run" within the City limits. Councilman Trout stated that the subject matter has come up before and we are trying to work with Mr. Bechtloff of the State's Green Acres Program to acquire additional funding that may be available for such a purpose.

Mr. Chiesa discussed the snow removal piles that still remained and how they could be a safety issue but in general thought the City did a good job this year in snow removal.

Finally Mr. Chiesa advised that he also attended the G. G. Green Meeting and would like to see not only a theatre at that location but for any developer to consider all possibilities that might attract more businesses into the city.

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

POLICE/FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

President Pro-Tempore Fleming and then introduced Chief Merinuk to make his presentation.

Chief Merinuk made available a bound handout that addressed the Police Departments daily budgetary expenditures. He pointed out that over the past few years there have been no operational increases even though services have increased.

At this point questions and comments were exchanged regarding salaries and services and the success of the landlord/registration program. Patrolmen Jeff Pitzo has especially helped in keeping landlords in compliance with city codes. Also, the presence of a foot patrol and the bike program has also helped in keeping things under control.

Chief Merinuk then discussed how the fire department has been able to keep their budget in check.

There was some discussion on weekend duty and recruiting part-time firefighters who will fill the void left when the full time officers retire. Also discussed were equipment and the companies other needs, but the Chief wanted to defer that for another meeting when Chief Volk is available. A significant issue is our ladder truck and it not being able to reach the top of all of Woodbury's buildings.

Lastly, Chief Merinuk stated that one consideration for Council to look into is the shared cost paid by Wenonah for our Fire Marshall.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Riskie, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
Emergency Mgmt Officer: Lieutenant Cope
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn
Police: Chief Reed Merinuk, Captain Sheehan
Streets: Thomas Dukelow, Supervisor
Solicitor: Alicia Hoffmeyer, Esq.

