

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.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Curtis, Louis, Graziani, Schreyer, Grimming, Grebb, President Riskie and Mayor Clark

Absent: Sloane

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Grebb, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the minutes of January 26, 2004 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the public for agenda items only.

Mr. Bowe stated that there would be a Public Hearing at this time to address any questions pertaining to Resolution #04-52 "Resolution Authorizing and Enabling the Mayor and the City of Woodbury to Make Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program"?

Craig Dear, 78 N. Woodland Avenue, inquired who would be responsible to pay this money back. Councilman Graziani advised Mr. Dear this was a 100% grant.

Mr Dear, not satisfied with that answer, stated that if this money is received and then the local voters do not approve the bond referendum, does this enable the School Board to increase the tax rate in Woodbury?

Councilman Graziani again attempted to answer Mr. Dear by advising him that the money had to be used for this project and within a certain time frame.

Mr. Law, Grant Co-Ordinator, advised that the process is first contingent upon the school moving forward with the project; a four to five year time frame for the project's completion did not seem unreasonable in Mr. Law's opinion.

Mr. Dear again rephrased his question by asking what if the bond issue is voted down and the State still approves the referendum; how can we stop that process, because ultimately the taxpayers are the ones who are paying through increased taxes?

Councilman Graziani explained that this grant does not obligate us in any way; in fact, it lowers the burden on the taxpayer by about 2.4 million dollars.

President Riskie advised Mr. Dear that one way to look at this issue would be that if the City does not apply for the grant, the taxpayers would have to burden the entire cost of the renovations.

Mr. Dear continued to ask the same questions again, but this time he wanted Council's guarantee that they would not make the school move forward with the project.

Councilman Graziani attempted to explain to Mr. Dear that the City did not have jurisdiction over that final decision.

Councilwoman Schreyer inquired if the Green Acres Grant would only be used for the stadium and the track and field improvements.

Mr. Dear advised that on the referendum there was a clause that stated any money not used for the specific items on the school bond can be used anywhere school officials may choose to spend it.

Councilman Grimming stated that this was not his understanding; any unused money from the project would be applied to reduce the bond.

After reviewing the contents of the bond referendum, it was determined that any unused money had to be used toward another project listed on the referendum.

Councilman Graziani stated that this was not even the issue, the issue before Council this evening was "do we even want to apply for the State funding" in the first place.

In conclusion, Mr. Dear summarized his comments by advising Council that they had the power to make the decision to control the money if the project does materialize.

There being no further public opinion on agenda items, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the floor was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Schreyer inquired if the minutes were approved. Council responded they were.

Councilwoman Schreyer requested changes be made to the minutes of January 26, 2004. The changes requested were as follows:

1. **Page 2** - eliminate the entire third and fourth lines from the bottom that read "On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote";
2. **Page 3** - add a third line from the top saying "Councilwoman Schreyer withdrew her second to table the motion", and
3. **Page 6** - the 5th paragraph should read - "Councilwoman Schreyer explained the process that legally must take place when a local school budget is defeated".

On motion of Councilwoman Schreyer, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the minutes were approved only after the changes were made as requested.

RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #04-51 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION (Interlocal Agreement-Real Estate)

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 #04-52 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ENABLING THE MAYOR AND CITY OF WOODBURY TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES PROGRAM

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Curtis stated that although this is just an application, somewhere at the State level it will show that Woodbury is being considered for Green Acres money in the amount of \$2.4 million dollars which we may not even use depending on what the voters do regarding the referendum. Will this hamper the City's ability to apply for other grant money for other Green Acre projects?

Councilman Curtis recommended that a phrase be added somewhere in the resolution that the City of Woodbury would be able to withdraw the application if the intended use is cancelled.

Mr. Law stated that the application must run its course and if, at some point later on down the road, a decision is made to withdraw the project then another resolution could be adopted to withdraw the application.

Councilwoman Schreyer stated that she had attended the recent School Board Meeting and she is still unsure how this Council's position to approve the grant application is in line with City voters. Councilwoman Schreyer also suggested that a flyer or some other type of questionnaire should go out to the voters and see how they actually feel about this issue. Councilwoman Schreyer requested the help of the press to poll the voters on what they do or don't support relative the school's referendum. Councilwoman Schreyer also stated that all possible options need to be explored and we should invite our State Representatives to get their input.

President Riskie stated that all of the above suggestions were valid; however, the deadline for the grant application was Friday, February 13, 2004.

Councilman Graziani stated that he wanted to make sure it was clear that this was only an opportunity to reduce the burden of the expense on the taxpayer and does not obligate the City to anything at this time.

Councilman Curtis expressed his objection to the vote at this time stating that he has doubted the School Board's credibility due to conflicting information and figures and will not approve such an application unless there are restrictions imposed on the School Board.

There was a roll call vote.

Ayes	5	Louis, Graziani, Grebb, Grimming, Riskie
Nays	2	Curtis, Schreyer
Abstain	1	Brown
Absent	1	Sloane

The resolution passed.

RESOLUTION #04-53 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOODBURY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE STADIUM COMPLEX

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Graziani inquired who would be negotiating for the City. The City Solicitor stated that the City's Bond Council as well as himself would be negotiating and some of the details would be discussed during the Executive Session.

Councilman Curtis advised that he would like to be part of the negotiation procedure since he was the Chairperson for the Green Acres Committee.

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

VOUCHERS

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

APPLICATION FOR A RAFFLE LICENSE

Councilman Louis presented an application for a raffle license submitted by Main Street, Inc. with the proper paperwork in tact.. On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Grebb, the application was approved as submitted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Graziani stated that he was happy to see Councilwoman Brown back as he has been trying to set up a meeting and would like her input.

Councilman Graziani also advised that a meeting will be held this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Mt. Laurel, NJ regarding State Funding involving schools. Anyone can ask questions, and after hearing everyone concerns this evening regarding the bond referendum it may be a good opportunity for local residents to hear from some State officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Councilwoman Schreyer invited Mr. Law to announce a meeting that was set up by himself and the State Department of Energy.

Mr. Law advised that on Wednesday, February 18th, 2004 at 7:00 in Council Chambers a public meeting will be held to answer questions on energy as discussed at a previous meeting.

ORDINANCE #1970-04 - ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY

Councilman Grimming presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Grimming, seconded by Councilman Louis, 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 23, 2004.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Councilman Curtis inquired if proper notice was made to the Public regarding the Budget Workshop scheduled to be held in Council Chambers on Saturday, February 21, 2004.

President Riskie advised that the public participation was encouraged and proper notice to the papers will be made.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark discussed the following subjects:

1. Mayor Leslie Clark announced that the Revolving Loan Fund for local small businesses has awarded its first recipient, Ritz Bakeries in Woodbury, who will be using the money to purchase new equipment;
2. The Mayor stated she attended the Deptford Planning Board Meeting last Wednesday where the subject of the proposed Wal-Mart was discussed. The meeting was well attended and many people came out to express their concerns regarding parking and increased traffic. Mayor Clark advised that she had the opportunity to speak and expressed her objections. Unfortunately, all indications are that the project will move forward;
3. Mayor Clark advised that a Public Hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.. A representative from the Ratepayer Advocacy Group will be the guest speaker and will answer questions pertaining to various ways the average consumer can save money on their energy bills. All are encouraged to attend; and
4. The Mayor congratulated Timothy Repas who has joined the ranks of Eagle Scout. The Mayor advised she would be attending a ceremony to honor Timothy on March 12th.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe advised that the monthly Water & Sewer Fund Reports for the year 2003 were distributed this evening.

Mr. Bowe invited Mr. Michael Aimino, City Solicitor to address Council on the most recent "Outdoor Cafe" ordinance and how it effects various businesses in town.

Mr. Aimino advised that one of the requirements prior to issuing an outdoor cafe license was to ensure that the City has on record insurance information that relieves the City of any responsibility if any injuries are incurred as a result of outdoor cafe activities.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Regular Order of Business was resumed and the floor was opened to the public for non-agenda items only.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, approached Council to inquire if a Public Hearing date has been established for the COAH resolution adopted at the last meeting.

Mr. Bowe responded that it has not.

Mr. Jenkins then inquired if the money involved would be issued as a loan.

Mr. Bowe responded, "Yes".

Frank Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to state that during the Public Portion this evening he had been hearing the reference made to the "public's opinion"; he wanted to make it clear that he was not part of that "public opinion".

As no one else desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Grebb, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Public Portion was closed for Non-Agenda Items and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

President Riskie thanked Council for all the input this evening pertaining to the School Board issue. President Riskie also thanked all concerned residents who came out this evening to express their opinion as well.

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, there was a five minute recess before Council went into Executive Session.

E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, President Riskie appointed an Ad-hoc Committee who could work along with the School Board to resolve mutual problems. The Committee will consist of Councilman Graziani, Councilwoman Schreyer, and President Riskie.

President Riskie advised Mr. Bowe to notify that Woodbury Board of Education of the names of the designated Council Members.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Louis, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law

Collector-Treasurer: Theresa Hamilton

Construction Code Official: William Wakemen

Deputy City Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler

Emergency Management Official: Sergeant Cope

Librarian: Jean Wipf

Neighborhood Preservation Coordinator: Virginia Horn

Police Chief: Reed Merinuk

Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esquire