

February 13, 2003

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 Sloane at 7:30 p.m.. The meeting was held in Council Chambers located at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N.J.. The Deputy Administrator, Robert Law, 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 2, 2003.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane requested a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Riskie, Schrock, Schreyer, Brown, Sloane, Louis, Graziani, Mayor Clark

Absent: Grebb, President Curtis

President Pro-Tempore Sloane stated that President Curtis was ill and Councilman Grebb had a travel commitment.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Stephanie Patterson read a selection from the life of William Still in honor of Black History Month.

MAYOR ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Clark read a Letter of Recommendation from Chief Merinuk listing background qualifications for the appointment of Patrolman F. Kevin Lockett.

Mayor Clark administered the Oath of Office.

Officer Lockett thanked Councilwoman Brown and everyone present or not who played a part in his appointment.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

President Pro-Tempore Sloane stated that Resolution #03-54 entitled "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE, INCLUDING CHANGES DUE TO AN EMERGENCY,

FOR THE WEST STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND MOUNT CONSTRUCTION” would be removed from the agenda and will not be addressed this evening.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the public for Agenda Items only. Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Schrock, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the minutes of January 23, 2003 were approved as submitted.

ORDINANCES

PUBLIC SAFETY

ORDINANCE #1952-03 – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE IMPOUNDMENT OR IMMOBILIZATION OF VEHICLES FOUND WITHIN THE CITY OF WOODBURY FOR OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AGAINST THAT VEHICLE

Councilman Schrock presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The Deputy City Administrator read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Schrock, seconded by Councilman Riskie, the ordinance was placed 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 27, 2003.

RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #03-51 – RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Councilman Schrock presented the above-entitled resolution.

The Deputy City Administrator read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #03-52 – RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID AND AUTHORIZING A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH EMERGENCY ONE, INC. FOR ONE (1) HP75 AERIAL FIRE TRUCK

Councilman Schrock presented the above-entitled resolution.

Councilman Schrock explained that originally the City was looking to purchase two fire trucks; however, after some research the vehicle mentioned in subject resolution would accomplish the work of the two at a considerable savings to the City.

The Deputy City Administrator read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #03-53 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF OFFERING DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF THE CITY'S TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2003; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND AWARD OF SAID BONDS; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATED THERETO

Councilman Schrock presented the above-entitled resolution.

The Deputy City Administrator read the title of the resolution. Mr. Law then explained that the City was refinancing to lower the rate of interest. Mr. Law stated that originally the City approved a bond at the rate of 8% for thirty years to cover costs for City employees who took the early retirement in 1991 as offered. This bond would shorten the length of time at a lower rate and would save the City at least \$500,000.

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

RESOLUTION #03-55 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FEASIBILITY STUDY/MASTER PLAN FOR FRIENDSHIP FIRE HOUSE, POLICE COMPLEX AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING RENOVATION

Councilman Schrock presented the above-entitled resolution.

The Deputy City Administrator read the title of the resolution.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane explained the need to consider options other than current locations for new facilities for the Police and Fire Departments. He then introduced Mr. Joseph McKernan, the architect who devised the proposed plan, to answer any questions from the Council.

Mr. McKernan started out by proposing two options at two different locations; one being the old Board of Election building at the corner of Delaware and Harrison; and the other would be to attach a new building to the existing Municipal Building.

Councilman Louis inquired how the City would take control of the existing Board of Election building.

Mr. Hasbrouck explained that he had several verbal guarantees that the County would be agreeable to turn over the building to the City.

Mayor Clark expressed some concern that the City would take a verbal agreement as its only guarantee for ownership and then start spending monies for feasibility studies.

Councilman Graziani stated that although he did not have any reason to doubt Mr. McKernan's expertise, he was concerned that the City did not consider obtaining competitive bids for the current study.

Councilman Riskie inquired as to the method Mr. McKernan used in coming up with a budget figure for the project.

Mr. McKernan stated that he used several factors available to him along with his 26 years of experience. He usually comes within 10% of his projected figure.

Some other dialogue continued with regard to how the figures could and would change if Council decided to build on a different site and how this would specifically impact Mr. McKernan's study.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane stated that he did not feel that any action would be taken this evening because of Council's concerns as stated; therefore, he is requesting that the resolution be tabled for this evening.

Councilman Schrock withdrew his motion to adopt the resolution and requested that Resolution #03-55 be tabled until the next Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer.

Mr. McKernan was advised to collect his proposals that were distributed and re-submit them when the other proposals were received from competitive bidders.

VOUCHERS

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Louis stated that two meetings have already been held to discuss the change orders that have been submitted concerning the West Street Project and the Committee has agreed on 4 out of 5 of the items submitted by Mount Construction. The Committee is hoping to come to some agreement on the fifth item.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown thanked Ms. Patterson for delivering the opening remarks for Black History Month.

Councilwoman Brown also recognized Mr. & Mrs. Latane for the fantastic job they have done in reorganizing the Midget Football and Cheerleading Programs in the City of Woodbury.

Councilwoman Brown recognized several members of Bethlehem Baptist Church who were present this evening, as well as Paulsboro Councilman Joseph Kidd.

Councilwoman Brown commended the Public Works Department for all the hard work that was involved in the recent snow removal; and went on to extend a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

GREEN ACRES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilman Graziani advised that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the Landlord/Tenant revisions to our current ordinance. Councilman Graziani stated that the City of Woodbury will be looking at an existing ordinance that has already been in effect in Paulsboro; the City of Woodbury will be using this tool as a guide when making adjustments to our existing ordinance.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer, advised that the purpose of tonight's presentation was to discuss in an open meeting the needs of each department and how they would effect their budgets.

The department heads that came forward this evening were from the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Each department head expressed the need for either new vehicles, new equipment or additional personnel.

Several Council Members questioned each department representative on the necessity of their requests and the conclusion was that Council would review and consider all comments heard this evening before a final decision would be made.

Mr. Law advised that if Council had questions they should contact him or call the department head directly. Mr. Law stated that the actual proposed budget will be introduced at the March 13, 2003 meeting.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Leslie Clark extended her congratulations to Clarence Water who recently retired from the Woodbury Police Department after many years of service.

Mayor Clark advised that on Tuesday a Inter-local Services Meeting was held with the four Mayors from the four municipalities involved in the Inter-Local Agreement. All four Mayors were extremely happy with the services provided by the Inter-Local Construction Department. The Mayor stated she would personally like to thank Bill Wakemen in making this program such a success.

The Mayor stated that many residents have contacted the Police Department, the School and the City of Woodbury expressing concern over the recent security alert that was issued. The Mayor inquired if the City was prepared to deal with such an alert. Mayor Clark then advised that she has been in contact with Sergeant Cope, the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, and he advised her that he had prepared a one-page list of steps to be taken if such an alert had to be implemented. Copies of this alert are available at Woodbury City Hall or by checking the Internet at woodbury.nj.us.

Mayor Clark also thanked Bill Fleming and Tom Dukelow for producing and distributing an informational flyer to the residents around the Bell Lake area explaining the upcoming plans for the dam restoration.

The Mayor also thanked Mike Walsh for the fine job on snow removal, especially on Cooper Street.

The Mayor advised that tickets are available for the Don Sanderson Roast to be held on Friday, February 28, 2003. Interested individuals can contact Fran Nigro, Jack Scott, Mike Amino or the Mayor.

Mayor Clark announced the appointment of William Eckley as 1st Alternate to the Historic Preservation Commission and Mrs. Maureen DiMartile as the Mayor's Alternate to the Woodbury Public Library Board of Trustees.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane invited Council to direct any who had questions to the Engineer regarding his Report this evening. Seeing none, the meeting continued.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Riskie, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for non-agenda items.

Mr. Bob Rogers, 130 Rugby Place, approached Council to discuss the proposed budget that was presented this evening inquiring as to any increases.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane advised Mr. Rogers that there were increases in the figures that were discussed, but just because an item is presented does not mean Council will approve it. All suggestions will be considered, but only those that are warranted will be approved.

Mr. Rogers suggested that one way to hold down increases would be to consider combining municipal services, limiting salary increases, reconsidering what health care benefits the City offers the employees, and looking more closely into the fringe benefits offered to the City employees. Mr. Rogers stated that he was not recommending these changes because he was dissatisfied with the City services, but was more concerned that if the City does not do something very quickly, it would lose many of its residents due to the tax increases.

President Pro-Tempore Sloane advised Mr. Rogers that many of the suggestions he shared this evening have already been or will be considered along with many other issues such as "extraordinary aid".

Mr. Bill Fleming, City Engineer, suggested that when Council considers receiving quotes from competitive bidders on the merging of the Police/Fire and City Hall Facilities that they contact 3 or 4 architects who are qualified and supply them with a list of needs inherent in the project.

Mr. Law stated that he was in favor of a competitive process in choosing an architect to review the City's current need for new Police and Fire facilities. Councilman Graziani concurred.

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

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Riskie, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor - Roy Duffield
City Engineer: William Fleming
Emergency Management Officer - Sergeant Cope
Economic Development Officer – Stanley El
Fire Department – Deputy Chief William Gotthardt
Library Director – Jean Wipf
Parks & Recreation – Gloria Holmes
Police – Lieutenant Sheehan
Public Works Director – Michael Walsh
Recording Secretary – Fran Nigro
Solicitor: Bruce Hasbrouck, Esq.