

March 8, 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 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, 2004.

President Riskie requested a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Curtis, Sloane

NOMINATIONS TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY

Mr. Bowe read a letter from the Republican Executive Committee submitting three names to fill the vacancy on Council for the Third Ward recently created by the resignation of Councilman Robert Grebb. The names submitted were: Heather Tierney, Jane Yeiter and Paul McMahon.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the name of Heather Tierney was recommended and approved to fill the vacancy.

MAYOR ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Clark administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Tierney to serve as Councilwoman for the Third Ward for the unexpired term of Robert Grebb ending 12-31-04.

Councilwoman Tierney introduced her family members who were present.

Mayor Clark welcomed Councilwoman Tierney stating that this evening is a very special one for her father, former mayor Donald Sanderson, who was in attendance.

President Riskie also welcomed the new Councilwoman wishing her well while reflecting on Mayor Sanderson's long political career.

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Grimming, the minutes of February 23, 2004 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

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

Alberta Baynard, a resident from Lakeside Apartments, came forward to first thank Council for granting her request regarding the shuttle bus, and also to request a change in the bus schedule. Ms. Baynard then explained her request regarding pick-up times at various shopping areas along the bus route..

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, approached Council to express her concerns over the potential lack of Council representation at a School Board Meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening at the Woodbury Child Development Center. Ms. Holmes stated that, although she is friends with Lester Brown, who was defeated during the last General Election for a position on Council, she questioned why Mr. Brown was the individual chosen to host the meeting.

Mayor Clark advised that Mr. Brown volunteered to host the meeting. The Mayor was also under the impression that Councilwoman Brown was involved with the meeting. Mayor Clark apologized to Councilwoman Brown if there was any misunderstanding regarding this issue. Ms. Holmes stated that she spoke directly with Lester Brown and he himself stated that he was asked to host the meeting.

COUNCILMAN SLOANE ARRIVED AT 7:50 PM

Councilwoman Brown advised that she did share information with Ms. Holmes indicating that she was interested in hosting a meeting with reference to the Bond Referendum. Councilwoman Brown stated she also discussed this with the Superintendent of Schools along with the Director of the Day Care Center. Thereafter the Councilwoman found out that a meeting on the same subject matter would be held and was being hosted by Lester Brown; this may have been a coincidence, but the timing was unusually close. In addition, Councilwoman Brown stated that the date for this pending meeting was the same night that a Task Force Meeting was scheduled. This conflict was unfortunate especially due to the extreme importance of the Bond Referendum..

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Grimming, the Public Portion for Agenda Items was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #1971-04 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 114 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE: LANDLORD/TENANT LICENSING

Councilman Graziani presented the above-entitled ordinance for final adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Sloane, the ordinance was ordered opened for public hearing.

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Sloane, the ordinance was placed on second and final reading.

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the ordinance was passed on second and final reading by roll call vote.

Ayes	8	Brown, Louis, Graziani, Sloane, Schreyer, Grimming, Tierney, President Riskie
Nays	0	
Absent	1	Curtis

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #04-60 - RESOLUTION HONORING AND WELCOMING THE HONORABLE JOHN E. WALLACE OF THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT TO THE CITY OF WOODBURY

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.

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

President Riskie introduced recently retired Superior Court Judge Donald Smith. Judge Smith publicly thanked Council for recognizing and honoring Justice John Wallace for opening his office within the City of Woodbury. Judge Smith noted that there are only seven Supreme Court Judges in the State of New Jersey and to have Justice Wallace chose Woodbury as the location of his Chambers is certainly an honor for the City of Woodbury.

VOUCHERS

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

Councilman Louis stated that originally the budget was going to be introduced this evening; however, the City recently was granted an extension to the filing of the budget because of the City's application for Extraordinary Aid. The filing period is now extended to March 26th. Councilman Louis advised that the Finance Committee will be holding a Capital Project Meeting on Friday, March 12, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall .

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown welcomed Councilwoman Tierney to her Council position.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION BY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

John Beale, President of the Merchants Association, welcomed Councilwoman Tierney stating that he had worked with Ms. Tierney when she was President of the Jaycees and looks forward to working with her in her new position as Councilperson.

Mr. Beal advised of a meeting held at the Kemble Methodist Church whereby many topics were discussed for the betterment of Woodbury such as street lighting and parking. Mr. Beal also advised of

the recent GROW Meeting where it was reflected that retail sales were significantly up during the first quarter for the first time in Woodbury in the last 12 years. Mr. Beal also thanked Mayor Clark for her input in attempting to defeat the building of the new Walmart in Deptford.

Councilwoman Brown inquired if the parking garage use was originally suppose to be for those visitors coming into Woodbury after business hours. Mr. Beal stated that the parking garage is for use at all times; however, most of the public are not even aware of the garage.

PRESIDENT RISKIE

President Riskie asked the City Solicitor to look into amending the ordinance regarding the sale of packaged goods from liquor stores expanding the hours of sale for Sundays.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Councilwoman Schreyer advised that a very large event is being planned this year by the Federal Government to honor our World War II Veterans. Details are not yet available, but the Councilwoman stated she wanted to prepare the public to look for future details pertaining to this event as they may become available.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown advised that the Seeds to Success Program will be held this year in the front area of the High School. Councilwoman Brown inquired how many people were in favor of this program by a show of hands from Council.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark spoke on the following topics:

1. The Mayor again welcomed Councilwoman Tierney on board as our newest Councilperson;
2. Mayor Clark stated that this Wednesday, March 10th, the City will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the act that incorporated the Borough of Woodbury from Deptford Township;
3. The Mayor advised that Woodbury will be receiving almost \$46,000 under the Livable Communities Local Library Aid Program. The Mayor also commended Jean Wipf, Director of the Woodbury Public Library, for her outstanding job of controlling costs and finding creative ways of saving money;
4. Mayor Clark also advised that a call was received from Assemblyman Roberts Office advising of another grant the City will be receiving in the amount of \$99,00 for the renovation of the Tennis Courts at West End School;
5. The Mayor also stated that the City will be receiving a \$2,150 insurance reimbursement for our outstanding performance in the 2003 Joint Insurance Fund Safety incentive program. Congratulations are due to our Fund Commissioner Tom Bowe, Safety Coordinator Reed Merinuk and Claims Coordinator Gail Scheffler for their part in achieving this reimbursement;
6. Mayor Clark advised that she attended the 5th Legislative District Liaison Briefing hosted by Assemblyman Roberts along with President Ron Riskie, Councilman Curtis and Councilwoman

Schreyer. At this briefing much information was shared by representatives from various state departments. The services offered by their offices could very much benefit the City;

7. The Mayor referenced the denial of Wal Mart's application before the Deptford Planning Board Meeting last month, although it is quite certain they will appeal the decision; however, for now this is good news;

8. Mayor Clark publicly welcomed Justice John Wallace to Woodbury stating that this is the first time in Woodbury's history that a sitting Supreme Court Justice has set up his chambers in Woodbury;

9. The Mayor announced that the Woodbury Mews will be having their official ribbon cutting ceremony this Thursday, March 11, at 3:30 p.m.; and

10. Mayor Clark announced that she would be appointing Brian Uzdavinis to the Historic Preservation Commission.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe advised that two projects will be going forward and copies have been distributed advising of such: the first is a bank stabilization in the lake system; and the second is the expansion of the paving on Reid Street.

Mr. Bowe stated that consideration is being given to include the Green Hotel as part of the Redevelopment Area. The Green Hotel is located on the corner of Cooper Street and Railroad Avenue across the street from St. Patrick's Church. The property is very problematic and the purpose of including this property is for its improvement.

Mr. Bowe advised that whenever Rt. 45 is closed because of a special event, a permit is required which use to carry a \$1.00 fee which the city covered; however, the fee has been increased by the State to \$250.00. Council needs to determine how this difference is to be handled.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On motion of Councilman Grimming, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Treasurer's Report for the Water & Sewer Fund for the months of January and February 2004 were received as filed.

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 non-agenda items only.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, inquired why the oldest black school in Woodbury on Carpenter Street is not included in the historical section of the City. Ms. Holmes also wanted Council to be aware of the Gloucester County Family Court moving to Hunter street.

Stephanie Patterson, 50 Hopkins Street, apologized for her daughter's absence at the beginning of the last Council Meeting; she was suppose to read a poem in honor of Black History Month. Ms. Patterson referenced the relocation of the Old Court House employees while their building is under

construction; she also told about a courthouse she recently visited in Pennsylvania where the municipality was sharing office space with the county.

Ms. Patterson inquired if the City Council would consider extending the Commercial District farther down the streets that are perpendicular to Broad Street.

Ms. Patterson also advised of a Neighborhood Watch Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at 40 Hopkins Street. The topic for discussion would be the new bail bonds business opening on Hopkins Street and the adverse effects it may have on the neighborhood.

Brendan Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, thanked the Mayor for her good news regarding the new tennis courts and also the news regarding the denial of the Wal Mart application.

Mr. Chiesa stated that he is aware that sometimes the meetings can be lengthy and with much dialogue exchanged; however, he did feel that some of his statements made the last meeting were not accurately reported.

There being no one else, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Grimming, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

President Riskie again welcomed Councilwoman Tierney and inquired if she had any input for the good of the meeting.

Councilwoman Tierney thanked the Republican Committee for nominating her to fill the vacancy of Councilman Grebb and stated she will do her best to represent not only the Third Ward but the entire City of Woodbury.

Councilman Sloane stated he also wanted to wish the best for the new Councilwoman and welcomed her as a fellow Councilmember.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
Deputy City Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
Emergency Management Officer: Sergeant Steven Cope
Library Director: Jean Wipf
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn
Police Chief: Chief Reed Merinuk
Public Works Office: Thomas Dukelow, Supervisor
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esq.