

March 10, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President C. Barry E. Sloane 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 2, 2008.

The Invocation was delivered by Councilwoman Roberta Schreyer.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Riskie, Schreyer, Villari, Brown, Louis, Tierney, Belko, President Sloane and Mayor Curtis

**Absent:** Fleming (Death in Family)

#### **MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2008 were approved as submitted.

#### **PUBLIC**

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

#### **PRESENTATION BY CEED REPRESENTATIVE**

President Sloane introduced Janet Drew, RN and Cheryl Karwosky, RN of CEED which is a Cancer Awareness Group from Underwood Memorial Hospital. Ms. Drew took the floor advising what programs are available to Gloucester County residents through cancer screenings, as well as other programs that help families in different ways who have been effected by cancer. Ms. Drew than gave some statistics and briefed Council on various types of cancer.

President Sloane thanked Ms. Janet Drew for very informative presentation especially since March is National Women's Month and National Cancer Awareness Month.

### **PRESENTATION BY MR. JOHNSON**

President Sloane then introduced Mr. Harvey Johnson, Esq. from the firm of Wolf Block who are representing the County of Gloucester to discuss easements for the County Garage Project while construction is going on.

Mr. Johnson, Esq. stated that he was from the Gloucester County Improvement Authority and explained his function in the project regarding the County's request for additional easements while construction is going on. Mr. Johnson then introduced Mr. Stanley Wojciechowski, PE from the engineering firm of Adams, Rehmann & Heggan who will be handling the legal matters for the county while construction is being done.

Mr. Wojciechowski came forth and explained how these additional easements would provide for widening the driveway that leads from the parking garage to the Criminal Justice Building that passes directly in front of the Woodbury Police Station to a two lane driveway. Mr. Wojciechowski then discussed easements for use as loading zones for delivery trucks.

More dialogue ensued with questions from Council members which Mr. Wojciechowski answered.

President Sloane thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wojciechowski for keeping Council informed of the progress of the project.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE #2069-08 – ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 190-31, SCHEDULE 1 TO PROVIDE NO PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF HARRISON STREET BETWEEN MORTON STREET AND WEST CENTRE STREET**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the ordinance was placed on first reading.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, 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 March 24, 2008.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**ORDINANCE #2070-08 – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF ACCESS AND CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT TO THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

Councilman Belko requested that consideration be made to mill and overlay the parking area in front of the Police Station after the completion of the Project.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, 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 March 24, 2008.

**ORDINANCE #2071-08 – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF RIGHT OF ACCESS EASEMENT ACROSS A PORTION OF BLOCK 121, LOTS 6.01, 7, 7.01, 10.02 AND 10.03 TO THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Riskie, 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 March 24, 2008.

**ORDINANCE #2072-08 – ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 190 (VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC) OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY DESIGNATING CERTAIN LOCATIONS AND LOADING ZONE**

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, 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 March 24, 2008.

Councilman Villari advised everyone that a meeting will take place on Thursday at 5:00 PM with the Finance Committee to discuss the proposed 2008 Budget. Also, there will be a Special Council Meeting on March 19, 2008 at 7:00 PM to Introduce the Budget. The Public is invited to both meetings.

**VOUCHERS**

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**RAFFLE APPLICATION**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, a raffle application from the Gloucester County Bar Foundation, Inc. for a raffle to be held on June 6, 2008 at the Woodbury Country Club was approved as submitted.

Councilman Louis referred to an incident that happened today at the Dunkin Donuts and would like to commend the Woodbury Police Department for their quick action and response which probably contributed to the situation not escalating beyond what did occur.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Belko stated that he is working with the Public Works Department in helping that department attempt to lower some of its costs.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Councilman Villari had nothing to report.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **RESOLUTION #08-75 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH** (Herb Budd)

Councilman Riskie presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Councilwoman Tierney advised that WORC will be having their meeting at the Woodbury Train Station on Thursday at 7:30 PM which she will be attending to see if they would be interested in working with the City to purchase new trees.

Also Councilwoman Tierney stated she is working along with Mr. Dukelow to draw up a Shade Tree Ordinance.

Councilwoman Tierney also extending her sincere condolences to the family of Frank Lucas on his untimely death. Mr. Lucas was a Woodbury resident and Woodbury High School graduate who worked for the Public Works Department.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**RESOLUTION #08-76 – RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM AND NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM LEAD BASED PAINT INSPECTION CONSULTANT AGREEMENT**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #08-77 – RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #08-44 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 116, LOT 15 A/K/A 146 FRANKLIN STREET**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #08-78 – RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #08-45 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM AND NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 116, LOT 5 A/K/A 65 HOPKINS**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #08-79 – RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS FOR APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #08-80 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY DESIGNATING REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Belko inquired what area this involved.

James Pierson, Esq. explained the area of Curtis Avenue and Aberdeen Place.

President Sloane stated that the question came up because of the parking lot on Curtis Avenue had to be included.

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

Councilwoman Schreyer stated that a special meeting did occur this week and many subjects were touched on pertaining to a memorial for John Green and Howard Pendleton and it seemed that the people in attendance were very much interested in going forward with the project. The next meeting will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 PM in Council Chambers.

**GREEN ACRES**

Councilwoman Schreyer advised that the Bike Grant that the City applied for was not approved.

**MAYOR CURTIS**

Mayor Curtis stated that the City did receive two other grants; one for \$250,000 to finish the soccer field project that would include adding restroom facilities and the other for \$250,000 for finishing improvements to Wing-Dickerson Park.

The Mayor mentioned a recent newspaper article that reported on possible consolidation of local Tax Assessors into a County assessing office. He invited our Tax Assessor, Roy A. Duffield, to give more details. Mr. Duffield gave his impression of the proposed plan and answered questions from Council Members.

The Mayor also thanked Public Works, Fire Department and Emergency Management Staff for all their help during the recent severe weather conditions that caused trees to fall and power outages to occur.

Mayor Curtis stated that although everyone is working very hard in keeping down the budget costs, he would request that Council take into consideration the needs and requests of the Police Department, which is already working with limited equipment. These men are putting their lives on-the-line to insure that you and I live in a safe community; let us not forget this when we are looking to reduce budget.

Chief Merinuk stated he appreciated the Mayor's thoughtful words and reminded everyone of the situation that occurred today regarding the two suspicious people who were in one of our neighborhoods knocking on doors. When our police officers responded to a complaint called in by one of the residents the officer was confronted with one of the suspects pointing a gun at him, at which time he was forced to protect himself and fired at the suspect. Needless to say this is exactly the type of situation that our police are exposed to on a daily basis.

The Mayor stated that the Police did everything properly and he just wanted everyone to know that the officer involved is handling the situation the best he can.

Several Council members had some questions regarding the incident which Chief Merinuk answered as much as he could explaining that the situation is still under investigation.

The Chief concluded that it was because of our police officers receiving the proper training that is so important in these type of situations that the situation did not escalate further.

With that in mind Councilwoman Brown inquired about the award the Police Department recently received.

Chief Merinuk advised that at the JIF Breakfast the City of Woodbury was honored with receiving the Silver Award from JIF.

Mayor Curtis reminded everyone that on Thursday there will be a meeting in Trenton with the Governor and Mayors from all over the State so he will not be able to make the meeting here that is scheduled for discussion of the budget.

**CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Bowe reminded everyone that the last day for filing petitions for the upcoming June Primary is April 7<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 PM at City Hall.

**PUBLIC**

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

Mr. Ray Volpe, 314 E. Red Bank Avenue, came forward to discuss his most recent water bill for \$1,000.00 and explained what occurred after he complained at City Hall at the last Council Meeting and received a new water meter.

Councilman Riskie went into further detail about the situation and the conclusion was there was no problem with the water meter itself; however one possibility is that there might be a mechanism within the water meter that may not be working properly but that would require additional testing at a cost of \$50.00.

President Sloane stated that he agrees that Mr. Volpe has a problem and he will authorize Mr. Walsh to look further into the situation before a final decision is made.

Mr. Walsh advised that Mr. Volpe's meter has been tested and everything was fine then discussed another avenue of thought about what could occur regarding the billing process. Mr. Walsh continued by advising that the City has never taken meters apart and checked into their inner mechanism system, and in all the tests that were done his meter was working properly.

Mayor Curtis explained that it is the customer's responsibility to pay for any additional testing he may want after the City has made an attempt to find the problem. If the test comes back showing that the meter is deficient the City will then pick up the costs; but the customer must put out the testing fee costs.

Councilman Riskie spoke on the behalf of Mr. Volpe regarding his displeasure with the way things are being handled.

In conclusion President Sloane suggested that someone will be out to Mr. Volpe's home tomorrow to have the meter tested and the cost of the test will be paid for by him and if the meter comes back defective then and only then will the bill be adjusted.

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

President Sloane reminded everyone again that the meeting dates for the budget will be this Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm by the Finance Committee to discuss the Budget and then a Special Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to Introduce the Budget.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Schreyer, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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THOMAS B. BOWE  
Clerk/Administrator

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Assessor: Roy Duffield  
Chief Financial Officer: Bob Law  
Deputy City Clerk: Gail Scheffler  
Emergency Management Officer: Lieutenant S. Cope  
Engineer: Ted Wilkinson, PE  
Librarian: Jean Wipf  
Police: Chief Reed Merinuk  
Public Works: Mike Walsh, Bill Lynch  
Solicitor: James Pierson