

March 12, 2007

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 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 4, 2007.

Councilman Louis delivered the Invocation.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Riskie, Schreyer, Villari, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Belko, President Sloane,

**Absent:** Mayor Curtis

President Sloane stated that Mayor Curtis extends his regrets and was not able to attend the meeting this evening due to work obligations.

### **MINUTES**

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Riskie, the minutes of February 26, 2007 were approved providing a change by made regarding remarks made by Councilwoman Schreyer relating to the RCA program. The City Clerk read the correction and Councilwoman Schreyer approved the wording.

### **PUBLIC**

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was open to the public for Agenda Items Only.

Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Riskie, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**RESOLUTION #07-74 – RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX PAYMENT** (Re: Block 64, Lot 10 – 29 High Street)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Riskie inquired if this situation puts the City in jeopardy.

The City Solicitor explained what occurred advising it does not; it is just a reimbursement due to erroneous payments and does not affect future payments to the City.

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

**RESOLUTION #07-75 – RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX PAYMENT** (RE: Block 75, Lot 3 – W. Barber Avenue)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**VOUCHERS**

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Louis, the vouchers as presented were authorized paid.

Councilman Fleming advised that over the past several weeks he along with other Council members and Department Heads have been meeting to discuss some of their concerns and the upcoming introduction of the proposed budget. Councilman Fleming continued by advising that the state has decreased what municipalities will be receiving for Extraordinary Aid. There are also several capital projects that have to be completed. All indications are that there will have to be an increase in taxes to help defray these costs. Currently the increase would be around 31cents. At the request of the City CFO a meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> to Introduce the Budget. There was a show of hands and on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Belko, a meeting to introduce the budget for Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM was approved.

Councilman Fleming advised that he will be available if any Department Heads or Council Members need to discuss anything further with him prior to the introduction of the budget on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The City Administrator, Mr. Bowe, stated that also at this meeting a COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) ordinance will be introduced.

Councilwoman Tierney inquired if the 31 cent increase excluded any capital projects that may be needed to be done.

Councilman Fleming advised that part of this increase was because it included the purchase of several vehicles as well as some other capital projects that are anticipated from the Engineer's perspective.

Councilwoman Tierney then asked if this is the minimum increase?

Councilman Fleming stated that based on what the City will receive from Extraordinary Aid and what projects can wait or what vehicles must be purchased, it could possibly come in lower; but we have already made very drastic cuts especially where Public Works is concerned.

Councilman Belko inquired if Councilman Fleming could provide a summary so Council can see where the cuts have been made.

Councilman Fleming stated he will do his best to have something to show where the changes occurred.

Councilman Louis asked some questions about bonding.

Councilman Fleming advised that he along with Bob Law considered all the options and have even spoken with the Auditor to see how he felt about when and how we go about bonding the purchase of the vehicles and exactly where their placement as the line items on the budget would best serve the City's budget. Councilman Fleming then explained some types of vehicles that could not qualify for bonding.

President Sloane inquired if someone from the Auditor's office of Bowman and Bowman be available at the Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, meeting to answer questions.

Councilwoman Schreyer inquired about are the Hybrid Vehicles and the life span of such a vehicle.

Councilman Fleming advised that the cost of a Hybrid would be about \$25,000 - \$28,000, and in the past the average life span of a police vehicle was 10 years; however, because of the constant wear on the vehicle he could not answer for the hybrids because he did not know how much maintenance was required for that kind of vehicle.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **RESOLUTION #07-72 – RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FIRE OFFICIAL SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilman Louis stated that he along with Councilwoman Tierney attended the last Planning Board Meeting when a Special Meeting to discuss a resolution that originated from this Council regarding First Floor Retail and the Master Plan was scheduled.

President Sloane explained a little more detail regarding exactly what the Special Meeting of the Planning Board would be looking at and stated it was open to the public.

Councilman Belko inquired what time the meeting would start.

President Sloane stated he did not know right now but would e-mail the information.

Councilman Louis stated that a couple of weeks ago there was an Economic Development Meeting where a discussion took place involving a resolution to DOT suggesting improvements to be made in the downtown corridor. There was also a resolution done over a year ago, and at the current meeting the Committee inquired what was the status of that request. Councilman Louis stated that he advised everyone that he spoke with a representative from DOT and he will be sending out a correspondence on their decision at which time he will make that public. It appears though that the Committee's recommendation of channelization of traffic converting from four lanes to three, was not one that the DOT was leaning towards; however, they did indicate further studies would be needed before a final decision can be made.

President Sloane advised that hopefully Council's recent resolution reinforcing last year's resolution would be sent to Trenton.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Belko updated Council on the Recycling Bank; he attended a meeting this morning and was told that they have altered their original program and explained the difference. Councilman Belko stated that he is a little discouraged with the changes, but still thinks Council

should invite a representative out to answer questions and see if it is in the City's best interest to get involved.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Councilman Villari advised that he, along with members of the Economic Steering Committee, have met with Rick Ragan of Ragan Design to discuss the CEDS Program in which the City is planning to participate.

Councilman Villari also advised that he spoke with American Images to further discuss making up brochures to highlight the City.

### **PERSONNEL**

Councilman Riskie referred to the Evaluation Forms that Mr. Bowe has e-mailed to the Personnel Committee and is advising that if anyone would like to meet to discuss any changes to let him know. Councilman Riskie stated that he was satisfied with the current version of the form. Next in line, Mr. Bowe is currently working on the job descriptions and will advise when they will be available.

President Sloane explained to the public in attendance that the purpose of these forms was to help evaluate job performance. President Sloane also thanked Councilman Riskie for all his efforts in moving this forward.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Councilwoman Schreyer advised that she still has brochures from the Garden Club of America if anyone is interested.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Councilwoman Brown thanked everyone for all their prayers, cards and phone calls which were very much appreciated.

### **RESOLUTION #07-73 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 101, LOT 16.02 a/k/a 459 ALLEN STREET**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #07-76 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 63, LOT 25 a/k/a 118 WEST STREET**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #07-77 – RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXTENSION OF AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN THE CDBG GRANT PROGRAM AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008-2010, INCLUSIVE**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

President Sloane asked Mr. Bowe to explain the program

Mr. Bowe first answered some questions Councilman Fleming had regarding projects that might be included.

**PRESENTATION BY RCA AUTHORITY WHO IS ALSO THE PLANNER FOR MANTUA TOWNSHIP**

President Sloane introduced James Bell to come forward to explain just what the RCA Program is all about.

Mr. Bell first read a letter that solicited municipalities to join the RCA Program and how that affected municipalities already involved in the COAH program.

Mr. Bell also explained that in his opinion, the RCA Program will not move forward until a legal opinion is given on an existing law suit.

Councilman Louis inquired if we could still continue talking with Mantua Township and when a decision is made we can either move forward or decline.

Mr. Bell stated that the City of Woodbury can talk with Mantua but in his opinion why waste the money using professionals if you can't move forward.

Councilman Louis stated that he fears that if we do not open communication with Mantua they may conclude that we are not interested and go with another municipality.

Councilman Belko inquired if we should contact Mantua again.

President Sloane stated that he sees no point at contacting them at this time.

Councilwoman Tierney stated that she would like to recognize Tom Dukelow for all his hard work on the Woodbury Winter Basketball Program. The highlight of the season was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who won their Tournament this year.

Tom Dukelow humbly accepted the compliment but stated that he had a lot of help and wanted to recognize, Chuck Thomas. If not for Chuck, Tom could not have done all that was accomplished this year.

Councilwoman Tierney stated that she was familiar with Chuck's contribution, and agreed; he has been extremely involved in many areas of helping getting the children to and from practice. Woodbury is lucky to have him.

### **PRESIDENT SLOANE**

In the Mayor's absence this evening President Sloane referred to a letter that was distributed from Lisa Jackson from the New Jersey Department of Transportation which Councilman Belko requested.

### **CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Bowe referred to a Traffic Study he distributed asking Council to make special note of pages 27 and 28 stating that this reflected some of what Councilman Louis was referring to earlier regarding "channelization".

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Sloane presented the Treasurer's Report which was received as filed.

### **TAX COLLECTORS REPORT**

President Sloane presented the Tax Collector's Report which was also received as filed.

## **PUBLIC**

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

Steve Graff, Maple Avenue, came forward to ask if Council had a date that the Courts might leave Woodbury.

President Sloane stated that at this point it does not look good and we should know something in a couple of weeks.

Paul Bunn, 18 E. Packard Avenue, inquired if Council knew if something is going to be done to the Masonic Temple on Green Street. The building is quite unsightly and has been in disrepair for over a year now.

Mr. Kunkle, Construction Official, responded that the owners of the property have been notified, but does not know the status right now.

President Sloane stated that the City would take the next step and follow up on the complaint.

Stephanie Jones, 140 Spring Street, came forward to discuss why it is taking so long to have a stump removed from her sidewalk. She has called several times and has left messages and is becoming less patient as this as been going on for over a year now.

Mr. Dukelow advised that the City did take down the tree about a year ago; however, normal stump removal takes anywhere from 6 months to one year. The City waits until it has enough removals in a given area to send out a team of workers. He was not aware of her complaint until this evening but would look into rectifying the problem in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Jones also inquired about the status of the Skateboard Park in Woodbury.

President Sloane stated that plans were started; however, because the State took away the \$350,000 grant, the project is now on hold.

Ms. Jones also expressed her concern regarding people leaving Woodbury, and as a new comer to Woodbury she is very disappointed with the way in which the schools and City are falling apart and taxes continuing to go up and up.

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

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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THOMAS B. BOWE  
Clerk/Administrator

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law  
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler  
Emergency Mgmt Officer: Lieutenant Steve Cope  
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn  
Solicitor: James Pierson Esq.  
Police: Captain Timothy Sheehan  
Public Works: Michael Walsh, Thomas Dukelow  
Rich Leidy, Bill Lynch